THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing anybody. (*Interruptions*) If you do not sit down, I will adjourn the House for lunch. If you do not abide by the Chair's ruling...

(व्यवधान) बैठ जाइये ग्राप । जब मैंने एक दफा कह दिया है,

When I am on my legs, do not get up. (*Interruptions*). If somebody is making a mistake, you do not make it. Now, please all sit down.

Yes, Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA (Delhi) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to support the demands of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. It is a truism to say. . .

उपसभापति : कोई बात नहीं हो सकता है कि वह कभी डिमांड के ऊपर भी डिसकस करें । एक दिन वह लोकस भा के मेम्बर भी बन सकते हैं तब वह डिमांड के ऊपर डिसकस करें और यह भी हो सकता है कि राज्य सभा में भी कोई डिमांड डिसकस हो । इसलिये हो जाने दीजिये कोई बात नहीं ।

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA : It is a truism to say and I hasten to say it briefly that this is one of the most important Ministries that has the potential in it of moulding the mind, heart and soul of our people either to good and noble ways or to base, ignoble self-destructive ways.

Madam, we shall assume that it is the good that we are after though Heaven knows and I say this in all sincerity and without taking a partisan side that the way in which some things are done by the Ministry must give rise to grave misgivings. But before I take a step further, I must say quite emphatically that the vast army of men and women who are engaged in the nuts and bolts of the working of the various departments and wings of this Ministry are sincere and dedicated people striving to the utmost in a difficult environment to do their best.

Why then, in the face of this effort, especially when we consider that most of it comes from young people still uncontaminated by cynicism, and brimming with enthusiasm and bursting to reach the peak of achievement, should we appear to fall short of our aims and targets?

Madam, at this stage, I must affirm quite firmly that it is extremely unfair of our enormous critics and commentators to go harping on the so-called superiority of foreign, and they always mean Western, media over ours. Anyone who sees dispassionately the objective conditions in terms of cultural linguistic complexity, the diversity, the financial resources, technological facilities, the atmosphere, environment, work ethic and even climatic factors, will have to admit that our people work under very difficult adverse circumstances. The almost miraculous thing is that in this situation, they deliver some kind of goods. Can one imagine what would happen if the whole of Western Europe, which is much smaller than India, were put together in one cauldron and have an all-Europe system having to deal with conflicting and diverse claims. It would not despite its developed status stand for a minute. But India struggles and exists. Our task is to carry it forward.

I am not saying that we should be complacent because of this. On the contrary, we should make a determined assault, a ceaseless determined assault, to find out the inhibiting causations for this state of affairs. Obviously, the problem lies elsewhere, perhaps the higher reaches of policy making and policy decisions.

Madam, the most striking thing is that for our policy makers and our decision takers there is no dearth of advice, per-

[*Shri Vishwa Bandhu Gupta*]

ceptive studies, brilliant and pragmatic reports, popular feed-back, and serious contemplative contributions by highly qualified media experts and public-spirited people on what should be done to improve our entire information and communication system which is the embodiment of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Madam, I wish to clarify that when I speak of communication, I do not mean the technological structure. We all know that fantstic strides have been made by our scientists and engineers in setting up a most comprehensive and most widespread system covering the whole country, much or most of it, let me say, with materials made right here in India.

I will not go into any statistics. They have been bandied over and over again. If we fed upon statistics alone we should be overfed by now. My concern and your concern is what we do with this sterling machine, we have called the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, and how we will use it to good purpose.

Madam, going through the Parliamentary debates on this Ministry in the previous years, I was struck by the extraordinary contribution made by hon. Members on both sides of this House in great detail on how to improve the performance at all levels of information. I was also impressed by the volume of material, as I said earlier, on this subject.

I would, therefore, first suggest that all this vast compendium should not be relegated to pigeon-holes, racks, or godowns to gather dust, or at worst, despatced to raddiwallas to emerge as envelopes for pan and peanuts. It should be carefully re-analysed and the essence extracted from it, and from its wisdom distilled a vibrant organisation which will serve the people impartially, judiciously and forcefully.

When we talk of Information and Broadcasting, in most minds the instant picture aroused is Doordarshan and Akashvani or All India Radio. At best, some may also think of the Film Festivals Directorate because of the salacious possibilities it holds out with the so-called 'hot' films shown at these festivals. But there are, of course, many other departments in this hydra-headed Ministry which could, and should, be giving a firm impetus in nation-building and nation-preservation activities.

We have, if I may briefly enumerate, the Press Information Bureau, which, though doing a thankless job of putting out tones of information on Government's activities, threatens, like U. N. agencies, of getting submerged by the weight of its own paper. Surely, it could clothe its information output in palatable and readable form. I think the problem is that it has not found a way yet of translating the dry-as-dust and dull-as-ditch-water bureaucratic officialese, with which it is loaded, into a sparkling prose, edible to its users.

Then, we have the Publications Division, the Directorate of Advertising and Visual Publicity—both rather unprofessional, to say the least—, the Directorate of Field Publicity—I wonder how many hon. Members and how many members of the public know what it exactly does the Films Division—which, alas, has fallen on bad days because of step-motherly treatment, neglect and the challenge posed by the television—and the Song and Drama Division—which, we can only take on trust, is doing some job somewhere.

All these seem to retreat into the shadows because they do not play as high-profile a role as television and radio. In consequence, left without glamour, they have tended to sink into mediocrity, or drift on a humdrum existence. I have not mentioned the National Film Development Corporation and its whimsical ways of unleashing through NRIs the most abominable films on a poor, unsuspecting, public. Nor I am going to say a word about the Film and Television Institute set up with such laudable objectives but floundering hopelessly for years. All these need to be strengthened organisationally, but more important, with a clear understanding of its objective and with a clear sense of its fundamental philosophy.

Madam, I know that it will be said that the Ministry has a clear-cut idea of its philosophy. Wt have heard it said time and

again that the philisophy and objective is to inform, educate and entertain, in that order. It has been said that the further objectives are to bring about popular awareness of the nation's problems and the plans and programmes of the Government for economic development and social change. National integration, scientific temper, interest in sports, propagation of the small family concept, welfare of women and children and the general promotion of our values based on our cultural and artistic heritage are the other aspects.

No one can cavil with these laudable objectives. They have been laid down for more than three decades. Originally, they were part of a dream to be realised. But with time, they have become realisable because a sea-change has come into the information and communication scene, through tremendous breakthroughs in technology, so that both sending out messages and receiving them have become easy, widespread, inexpensive and within reach of millions. This is particularly so in the case of television and radio and, now, the video and cassettes.

Madam, I draw the attention of the House to the several reports of expert commissions and independent exercises on this subject. It is significant that after all these years, the Joshi Committee had to plead for an Indian personality for Doordarshan. Why did it feel incumbent to make this obvious statement? Surely, something has gone wrong somewhere that so recently as five or six years ago this had to be brought up.

The short answer is that the very technology I spoke of has also brought in tremendous consumerist and elitist forces based on western world-views and values to exert almost irresistible pressures on all the media, electronic and print. Those who call for simplicity, an attention to the problems and needs of the masses of people, are considered kill joys and backward and narrow chauvinists. Few can deny that enormous expectations have been aroused in the people in their millions for a life-style that is both alien to them and beyond their reach -at any rate in the foreseeable future. This has led to social tensions and a tremendous alienation between different classes of people. The dream of Mahatma Gandhi and innumerable patriots—on both side of this House, I may add, cutting across political labels—for a nation with minimum class conflict, if not altogether erased, lies shattered.

The Ministry of I&B claims it is doing its job in this direction, and when I see the details of its programmes in each field, I am impressed and I commend the House to study them carefully. And yet there is also the impression, not just based on prejudice or hearsay that, overwhelmingly, today entertainment has taken pride of place at the cost of education and information. If the entertainment were linked to these two asptcts one would applaud it. But entertainment of an escapist kind or one which titillates without going beyond, can be dangerous. I am sure the Ministry will look closely into this aspect.

As the Ministry itself understand, there can be a dose of pure, unadulterated entertainment, and also other healthy doses of entertainment which informs and educates. The pride of being Indian—which, in essence, is what the Joshi Committee was driving at—the pride in things Indian is a fundamental objective. There is too much scorn about India and things Indian, even in areas where we have every justification of being proud. We cannot allow a small but vocal minority to distort the Indian psyche. The weapons at the disposal of the Ministry of I&B must be used for this purpose. I have made it very clear that I am not calling for a pig-headed propaganda but a brilliant assertion of our Indianness. I cannot believe that any single member of this House would dispute it.

Madam, now in this task we come across a fundamental objective of communication. It is simple statement. The communicator must communicate. To do this the message must be understood by the receiver, in other words, in a language familiar to him or her. Here I would like to make a very important suggestion. It is to be found in one of the reports we have at hand—I think it was in the NAMEDIA report on Television. The suggestion is that

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a Central Dubbing Organisation be set up so that all, or most, television programmes are dubbed in all the languages of India. There are many programmes, educational, entertainment, serials and others which are not time-bound, which can be televised at leisure. They need not be shown on the national net work at the same instant. But even this in different languages, is now technologically possible, and, I understand the Doordarshan engineers and our telecommunication experts have already made some positive experiments in this direction.

Madam, I am not suggesting the linguistic fragmentation of India further. I repeat I am not suggesting the linguistic fragmentation of India further, but look at it this way. Of what use is it to spend enormous resources to show any programme in a language intelligible to only a few, over the entire nation? Where is the communication? Is it not a futile loss? Subtitles are of limited use in our country where the literacy level is painfully low. Dubbing is the answer. There is much more I can say about television and radio but I will desist, having made some fundamental comments and suggestions. I will say nothing about structure. At the moment it is quite a futile subject. Much has been said about it but little has been done. Even the Janata regime, despite its much trumpeted determination to bring about a radical change, suddenly became coy when it was faced with the reality. No excuse about lack of time and opportunity will cut any ice. Even today the Opposition, while talking big about the freedom of the electronic media, also desire in these areas under their control, to control the second channel! Note that they do not ask for full freedom for the second channel. Only that they should get a share of control. So much for freedom!

Madam, I am not suggesting, thereby, that the media in any form should be a handmaiden of any ruling party. It is for the Ministry of I&B to devise ways in which the largest measure of freedom is exercised by its, as I said, dedicated and devoted staff who, I am certain, are as much interested in breathing a *free* air Many moves have been made in this direction and I commend, with your indulgence, Madam, and of honourable Members, that the Ministry persist in them.

Madam, I would now like to touch briefly on news coverage. This is a thorny subject and mere statistics about time devoted to this or that party, of this or that individual does not take us anywhere. There is a question of credibility, and in the polarized adversary positions taken today, no one is ever going to accept that any fair dealing is fair. If Doordarshan were to show nothing of the Prime Minister and only the stalwarts of the Opposition, that would also be suspect and imagined as a subtle conspiracy; it would be criticized. Let me recall for those with short memories, we also used to hear in a certain thirty-month period, every bulletin beginning, "The Prime Minister, Mr. Morarji Desai, has said," or "The Prime Minister, Mr. Charan Singh, has said." Just ask for the records if you don't believe me. However, I do not wish to make a scoring point of this. Some realities cannot be swept even under the most gorgeous carpet.

Madam, I would now like to come to another very, very thorny subject. You will forgive me if I speak with some passion, since I have long been associated with it in very intimate capacity. The subject is the print media. Apart from innumerable hurdles, newspapers, magazines and books have faced the latest exorbitant hike in the price of news-print, glazed or unglazed. This has been an intolerable burden. Some may argue that the Indian newspaper and publishing organization is wasting newsprint in needless and extravagant stories and articles of little value to the Indian reader. But this is a false argument because what looks extravagant is only the result of new and, now, inexpensive technologies. The offset press, particularly web offset, the photo composing, the colour scanners and a host of other in-

novations have taken our print industry to new heights of excellence. Let me remind you that once Switzerland, Hong Kong and Japan were supposed to be the masters of printing. Today, India can compete and even challenge them. Indeed many clients from abroad come to us with their top printing orders. In such a situation, to impose herculean burdens is grossly unfair.

And when I tell that the Ministry of I & B's own Registrar of Newspapers tell us, rather proudly, of the tremendous explosion of newspapers and magazines, not just in English but, more impressively, in our Indian languages, you can imagine what a crushing blow they have received through this price hike in newsprint. And you can also sympathise with the small and medium newspapers who are faced with extinction. I cannot believe that this hike is designed as an oblique censorship of adversary newspapers. It would be like the story of the Chinese simpleton who burnt his entire cottage in order to roast his pig therein. If at all the Government wished to discipline some newspapers, would it penalise the entire press through this all-embracing move? Somewhere someone has to take a larger, pragmatic view. I would like the Ministry along with associate Ministries to get to a speedy solution of this grave crisis. This crisis is a question of survival of a very valuable source of information and understanding of issues facing the nation.

Madam, I would at this stage like to make here a few specific suggestions:

The total time of telecast and broadcast should be increased for greater coverage, and total network expanded speedily, specially in the border areas.

Special serials should be produced to control the population explosion and support the Family Planning Programme much needed in our country.

Much greater emphasis is needed to highlight science and technology for use of new technologies by the masses. This should include programmes on the Technology Missions we have in India.

Adventure sports need greater projection to build a spirit of adventure among the youth of the country.

Programmes for focussing attention on the coming 21st century and India's march to it should be produced.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Adventures like ballooning.

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Ballooning is one part. Thank you for reminding me. I had almost forgotten it.

The weather and temperature telecast should not be limited to the four metro cities only, but it should cover other important towns in India because it tends to give an impression that India is only theee four cities. Other people also in India are interested in knowing their weather.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA (Uttar Pradesh): Do you mean the second channel?

SHRI VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA: Yes, Sir.

The price of glazed and standard newsprint, as I said earlier, must be reduced.

Madam, in conclusion, I would say that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as one which sets the pace, breaks new ground, offers new and exhilarating vistas of understanding towards progress, should, even with its present commendable efforts, reach out ever forward and ever higher towards an information order that will serve the nation to realise its goal of prosperity and well-being of the largest masses of the millions.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House adjourns for lunch till 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-nine minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-four minutes past two of the clock. The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai) in the Chair.

DISCUSSION ON THE WORKING OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING—Contd.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now, we continue with the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Shri Satya Prakash Malaviya. Your party has got 24 minutes. Mr. Kamal Morarka is also here. So, you decide how much time you will take.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, यह जो सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय है इसके कार्यकरण पर चर्चा के माध्यम से इस सदन को यह मौका मिला है कि इस विभाग की कार्य प्रणाली है उसके ऊपर आंकलन कर सकें और किसी भी देश में जो सरकारी मीडिया है या इस विभाग से संबंधित जो विभाग हैं उनसे इस बात की जानकारी होती है कि किस प्रकार से वे विभाग काम कर रहे हैं। यह जाहिर बात है कि जो सरकारी मीडिया है कम से कम भारत जैसे देश में कि देश के एक कोने में क्या घटित हो रहा है या दूसरे कोने में क्या घटित हो रहा है इसके बारे में उसको सारे देश के लोगों को जानकारी करानी चाहिये। भारत देश गरीब नहीं है हमारे यहां प्रचुर संपदा है। लेकिन यहां के जो लोग हैं उनमें आधे से ज्यादा लोग निरक्षर हैं, गरीबी की रेखा से नीचे रहते हैं। बुद्धिमान और परिपक्व होते हुये भी क्योंकि उनके पास साधनों का अभाव है इसलिये हमारा देश बहुत से मामलों में पिछड़ा हुआ है। 28 अप्रैल को इसी सदन में सरकारी मीडिया के ऊपर एक ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव था और जो इस विभाग के मंत्री थे श्री अजीत पंजा उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य के शुरू में कुछ उद्धरण दिये थे। उन्होंने कहा था कि :

"An informed, educated and enlightened citizenry is the basis of a democratic country like India. The Government is fully conscious of the role of the official media have to perform in educating and informing the people of the country with a view to galvanising them into a unified force for the socio-economic and cultural advancement of the country."

यह बात उनकी बिल्कुल सही भी थी। लेकिन आज हमको यह देखना होगा कि वास्तव में यह जो विभाग है और इसके जो उद्देश्य बतलाये गये हैं वह उनको पूरा करने में कहां तक सफल हुआ है। हमारे देश में 82 प्रतिशत लोग ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रहते हैं और इनमें से 70 प्रतिशत लोग जो हैं वे गरीब और निरक्षर हैं। तो इस विभाग का यह भी काम होना चाहिये कि देश से गरीबी कैसे दूर हो, निरक्षरता कैसे दूर हो। हमारे देश में जो सामाजिक कुरीतियां हैं वे कैसे समाप्त हों और इसमें सरकारी प्रचार माध्यमों का बहुत बड़ा योगदान हो सकता है। मीडिया का काम है जैसा कि खुद ही उसकी वार्षिक रिपोर्ट में बतलाया गया है कि शिक्षा देना, सूचना देना तथा यह जो हमारा जन-मानस है उसको इंटरटेन करना। लेकिन यह काम तभी संभव होगा जब कि सरकारी मीडिया का सदुपयोग हो। इस मीडिया का दुरुपयोग किसी की छवि बिगाड़ने के लिये या किसी की छवि सुधारने के लिये न हो। बहुत सी कमेटियां बनीं। चन्दा कमेटी, फिर दूरदर्शन पर जोशी कमेटी बनी, फिर उसके बाद अभी विश्व बन्धु गुप्ता जी जिक्र कर रहे थे कि दूरदर्शन पर एक नामिडिया कमेटी थी। उसके बाद वर्गीस कमेटी थी। अभी चार-पांच दिन पहले लोक सभा में स्टेट्स कमेटी की रिपोर्ट भी इस संबंध में प्रस्तुत हुई है। सरकारिया कमीशन जो बिठाया गया था उसने भी इस संबंध में अपने कुछ सुझाव दिये हैं। लेकिन इस पर मैं कहूं उसके पहले 5 जनवरी, 1962 को श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू का जो भाषण है उसको यहां पर प्रस्तुत करना चाहता हूं। उसमें उन्होंने कहा था कि धनी समूह अथवा धनी राष्ट्र जन संचार के माध्यम से किसी देश और संसार में अपनी विचारधारा का छद्मवेश प्रचार कर सकते हैं, जो सही या गलत कैसे भी हो सकता है।

मेरा कहना है कि आज जो मीडिया है सरकारी मीडिया, चाहे वह दूरदर्शन हो, चाहे आकाशवाणी हो उसका दुरुपयोग आज सत्ताधारी पार्टी जो है उसके लिये बहुत नियोजित ढंग से किया जा रहा है और यह भी प्रचार किया जा रहा है कि देश में जो राजनैतिक दलों के लोग हैं उनके विरुद्ध इसके माध्यम से प्रचार किया जा रहा है। इसका सबसे बड़ा उदाहरण मैं इसी सदन की कार्यवाही से शुरू करूंगा। 26 अप्रैल या 27 अप्रैल को कर्नाटक के राज्यपाल के विरुद्ध एक प्रस्ताव इस सदन में था। श्री बूटा सिंह जी का उस प्रस्ताव के विरोध में और जो उनका सरकारी प्रस्ताव था उसके पक्ष में, श्री बूटा सिंह जी का भाषण हुआ और उसका उत्तर भी श्री गुरुपादस्वामी जी ने दिया। लेकिन शाम को आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन में 27 तारीख को एक प्रसारण हुआ। दूरदर्शन में जो प्रसारण हुआ 27 अप्रैल को हिन्दी वाले समाचारों में भी हुआ जो 8.40 से 9.00 बजे तक होता है और अंग्रेजी वाला जो 9.30 से 9.50 तक होता है उसमें भी प्रसारण हुआ। तो दूरदर्शन पर प्रसारित अंग्रेजी समाचार का उद्धरण मैं पढ़ूंगा और आकाशवाणी का हिन्दी वाला उद्धरण पढ़ूंगा।

"Fifty-one Congress-I Members of Parliament today criticised the Janata Dal leader, Mr. Gurupadaswamy for using what they called derogatory language against the Home Minister Mr. Buta Singh in the Rajya Sabha while moving the motion of censure against the Karnatak Governor. In a joint statement in New Delhi, they said, Mr. Buta Singh represents the weaker sections in Parliament and this has caused widespread feelings of pain and anguish among the people. They regretted that some Janata Dal leaders show disrespect towards the weaker sections.

The signatories to the statement include Chowdhury Ram Sewak, Mr. S. S. Ahluwalia, Mr. V. Narayanasamy, Mr. Mirza Irshad Baig, all of whom are Members of this House and Dr. G. S. Rajhans and Mr. D. P. Yadav, both of them are Members of Lok Sabha."

ठीक इसी प्रकार से जो आकाशवाणी है उसका अंग्रेजी और हिन्दी दोनों में समाचार आया लेकिन हिन्दी में जो समाचार 8.45 मिनट पर आया वह इस प्रकार है :—

"कांग्रेस आई के 51 संसद सदस्यों ने जनता दल के नेता श्री गुरुपदस्वामी की इस बात के लिए आलोचना की है कि उन्होंने राज्यसभा में कर्नाटक के राज्यपाल के खिलाफ निन्दा प्रस्ताव रखते हुए गृह मंत्री श्री बूटा सिंह के विरुद्ध अपमानजनक भाषा का इस्तेमाल किया। नई दिल्ली में एक संयुक्त बयान में इन संसद सदस्यों ने कहा कि श्री बूटा सिंह संसद में कमजोर वर्गों का प्रतिनिधित्व करते हैं और इस तरह के व्यवहार से लोगों को दुःख हुआ है। उन्होंने इस बात पर खेद व्यक्त किया कि जनता दल के कुछ नेताओं ने कमजोर वर्गों के प्रति असम्मान दिखाया है। इस सिलसिले में उन्होंने कहा कि उत्तर प्रदेश में श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह के शासन के दौरान अनुसूचित जातियों और जनजातियों पर कई तरह की ज्यादतियां हुई। बयान पर हस्ताक्षर करने वालों में चौधरी राम सेवक, श्री एस० एस० अहलूवालिया, श्री नारायण स्वामी, डा० जी० एस० राजहंस, श्री डी० पी० यादव और मीर्जा इर्शादबेग शामिल हैं"।

मेरा निवेदन यह है कि राज्य सभा की जो कार्यवाही है वह इस सदन के समक्ष रखी हुई है। वह एक अधिकृत कार्यवाही है।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश): मेरा एक प्वाइंट आफ आर्डर है। हमारे

[डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय]

मालवीय जी सुलझे हुए चरित्रवान और प्रतिष्ठित सांसद हैं। उस दिन सदन में जो कुछ हुआ था उस में हमारे अपोजीशन के नेता माननीय गुरुपदस्वामी जी ने सबमुच अपना वलेस लूज कर दिया था और शुक्लानि न जाने क्या क्या कहा। जो 51 सांसदों ने बयान दिया हम भी उन सिगनेटरीज में हैं। उसको निश्चित रूप से प्रसारित किया गया और उस में ऐसी कोई चीज नहीं हैं **(व्यवधान)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): This cannot be a point of order. This can be a point of information.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : उस में ऐसी कोई चीज नहीं है जिस पर सदन का समर्थ लिया जाए। वह हस्ताक्षरित बयान हम लोगों ने रिलीज किया था उसको दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी ने प्रसारित किया था।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : आपको भी मौका मिलेगा तब आप बोल दीजियेगा।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मैं सिर्फ यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि सदन की कार्यवाही अधिकृत कार्यवाही है। आकाशवाणी, दूरदर्शन या किसी को भी यह अधिकार हासिल नहीं है कि सदन की कार्यवाही में जो कुछ भी नहीं कहा गया हो उसको किसी वक्तव्य के माध्यम से दूरदर्शन या आकाशवाणी से प्रसारित कराया जाए। यह एक बहुत ही गम्भीर विषय है क्योंकि सदन में रोज कार्यवाही होती हैं **(व्यवधान)**

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : इस तरह का बयान हमारे स्वामी जी ने दिया था विरोधी दल के नेता माननीय वीपी० सिंह के खिलाफ उस समय भी 18-19 लोगों पर आरोप लगाया था वह प्रसारित हुआ था केवल कांग्रेस के लिए नहीं किया गया था बल्कि जब अपोजीशन के लोग भी संयुक्त वक्तव्य देते हैं तो आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन ने उसको प्रसारित किया है यह मैं बताना चाहता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : आपको मौका मिलेगा, इस समय बैठिये।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मैं सिर्फ यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि आकाशवाणी या दूरदर्शन को इस बात का अधिकार नहीं है कि जो कुछ भी सदन की कार्यवाही में नहीं कहा गया हो या जो कुछ भी कहा गया हो उसको डिस्टार्ट कर के तोड़मरोड़ कर के एक गलत प्रसारण दूरदर्शन या आकाशवाणी से कराया जाए। इस संबंध में मैंने एक विशेषाधिकार का प्रश्न रखा है, वह चेयरमैन महोदया के पास विचाराधीन है लेकिन मैं केवल इस ओर ध्यान करना चाहता हूं और इसी लिए आज आप जनता के बीच में घूमिए तो आपको मालूम होगा कि आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन का क्या नाम रखा गया है, "राजीव दर्शन", आकाशवाणी का नाम है, "राजीव श्रवण" और मिनिस्टर आफ इन्फार्मेशन का नाम लोग कहते हैं, "मिनिस्टर फार डिसइन्फार्मेशन"। तो जनता में इस बात की चर्चा हो... **(व्यवधान)** जनता में इस विभाग की साख गिरे इस के लिए सरकार को सोचना चाहिए और चर्चा करनी क्योंकि जिन कमेटियों, समितियों का मैंने नाम लिया है उन लोगों ने भी पहले इस बात की चर्चा की है। सबसे पहले मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि बराबर इस देश में मांग की गई है कि चूंकि सरकार का नियंत्रण इस विभाग पर रहता है इसलिए इस विभाग को स्वायत्तशासी घोषित कर दिया जाये, इसको आटोनामस कर दिया जाये और इस देश के पहले प्रधान मंत्री श्री जवाहर लाल जी ने कांस्टीट्यूएंट असेम्बली या संविधान निर्मात्री जो सभा है उसमें 15 मार्च 1948 को अपना एक भाषण भी दिया था और उसमें उनकी इस सिलसिले में राय थी—

"My own view of the set-up for broadcasting is that we should approximate as far as possible to the British model, the BBC; that is to say, it would be better if we had a semi-autonomous corporation under the Govern-

ment, of course, with the policy controlled by the Government, otherwise being not conducted as a Government department but as a semi-autonomous corporation . . . I think we should aim at that, even though we may have many difficulties. In fact, in most matters we should aim at the semi-autonomous corporations, the policy and other things being distantly controlled by the Government, but the Government or Government departments not interfering in their day-to-day activities."

15 मार्च 1948 को जवाहर लाल जी का भाषण संविधान निर्मात्री सभा के सामने है। वह संविधान हमारी पारित भी हो गया है लेकिन आज हमको सोचना चाहिए कि पिछली आजादी से लेकर आज तक जिस तरीके से विभाग ने काम किया है क्या सही मायने में आज इस बात की आवश्यकता है कि नहीं, कि आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन को आटोनामस बाडी डिक्लेयर कर दिया जाये। किस प्रकार से हो इस सिलसिले में वर्गीज कमेटी की रिपोर्ट है। उस वर्गीज कमेटी ने क्या कहा है :

"We envisage an autonomous national trust as the authority under which Akashvani and Doordarshan should grow. This we are naming AKASH BHARATI-the National Broadcast Trust."

कैसे हो, किस प्रकार से हो यह सरकार के लिए सोचने की बात है, इस सदन के लिए सोचने की बात है लेकिन मैं निश्चित इस राय का हूं कि इस सिलसिले में सरकार को शीघ्र ही निर्णय लेना चाहिए क्योंकि शक की गुंजाइश भी जनता के बीच में नहीं रहनी चाहिए। जिस प्रकार के उदाहरण हो रहे हैं उन सबको जनता के बीच से दूर करना चाहिए इसलिए मेरी पहली मांग यह है कि इस संस्था को आटोनामस घोषित करना चाहिए दूसरा, मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि अभी हाल में इस्टीमेट्स कमेटी की सन् 1988-89 की एक रिपोर्ट लोक सभा में 28 अप्रैल को प्रस्तुत की गई है। काफी मेहनत से यह रिपोर्ट तैयार की गई है और लोक सभा के सदस्य श्री आरलेप झा उसके अध्यक्ष हैं। उन्होंने चर्चा करते करते इस बात का जिक्र किया कि जो देवराला काण्ड हुआ राजस्थान में सती की कुप्रथा के संबंध में उसके बारे में पहली बार रेडियो व दूरदर्शन के जरिये इस देश की जनता को 15 दिन बाद जानकारी दी गई। यह एक सामाजिक कुरीति थी एक तरीके से बड़ा ही बर्बर काण्ड था। तो उन्होंने यह उद्धरण दिया और इस पर बड़ा आश्चर्य प्रकट किया है इस्टीमेट्स कमेटी ने इस घटना का जिक्र करते हुए इसका उद्धरण यह है :

"Tendency to ignore news having social and economic consequences should be strictly curbed. To cite a specific case, it has taken more than two weeks for the AIR and Doordarshan to report a rare incident of such enormous national importance as that of 'Sati' at Deorala. This only betrays lack of proasessionalism on the part of both media units."

उन्होंने कुछ और भी सुझाव दिये हैं। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो इस कमेटी ने अपनी रिपोर्ट दी है, इस रिपोर्ट पर भी विभाग को विचार करना चाहिए। जो इस प्रकार के कांड होते हैं, जो आखिर एक सामाजिक कुरीति है और वह सामाजिक कुरीति तभी रुकेगी जबकि आकाशवाणी के माध्यम से, दूरदर्शन के माध्यम से उस चर्चा की निंदा करेंगे।

कल रात को टेलीविजन पर इस प्रकार की घटना को मैंने देखा। बड़ी ही दर्दनाक घटना थी। उस घटना को देखते हुए आंख से आंसू आ जाते हैं और इसलिए जिस किसी ने भी उस घटना का दूरदर्शन से प्रसारण किया, निश्चित ही वह लोग बधाई के पात्र हैं। तो यह विभाग जो अच्छा काम करे, उसकी तारीफ की जाएगी, लेकिन विभाग कोई ऐसा काम करेगा, तो उसकी आवश्यकता नहीं है कि उसकी तारीफ भी की जाए। तो जिस प्रकार का कार्यक्रम कल दिखाया गया, वह अच्छा काम था और मैं भी चाहूंगा कि इस प्रकार के कार्यक्रम को समय-समय पर दिखाना चाहिए।

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय]

दूसरे अक्सर शिकायत आती है कि टेलीवीजन में या आकाशवाणी से जो बहत से बाहर के लोगों को बुलाया जाता है और जो वह अपनी राय व्यक्त करते हैं, जो उसका टेप होता है या उसका जो टेकनीक होता है, उस तरीके से जो लिया जाता है, उसमें बाद में कटौती कर दी जाती है और उस कटौती के बारे में जो व्यक्ति अपना इंटरव्यू देता है, उसको कोई जानकारी भी नहीं होती है। एक तरीके से यह मामला आपके ही बाम्बे हाई कोर्ट में गया। कोई वहां पर मिसेज इंदिरा जया सिंह का जब इंटरव्यू हुआ, तो उसके बाद जब वह टेलीवीजन पर दिखाया गया, उसमें काफी सेंसर कर दिया गया काट दिया गया तो बाम्बे हाई कोर्ट ने जो उसमें अपना फैसला दिया है--इंदिरा जया सिंह केस में--

"When a citizen was interviewed on an invitation by the media unit, he had the right to express his views freely and any censorship or distortation of his views would violate his right to free speech guaranteed by Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution."

और यह बतलाया भी गया है कि इस विभाग की ओर से डाइरेक्शंस जारी कर दिये गये हैं कि जो हाई कोर्ट का आब्जर्वेशन है, या फैसला है बाम्बे हाई कोर्ट का उसका विभाग भविष्य में पालन करेगा।

तो मैं यह भी चाहूंगा क्योंकि अभी कर्नाटक की सरकार के सिलसिले में टेलीवीजन में कुछ लोगों के इंटरव्यू आये थे, 6-7 लोगों के थे, निजलिंगप्पा का भी भी था, श्री बी०डी० जत्ती का भी था, और कुछ लोगों का भी था सात-आठ लोगों का इंटरव्यू आया है और जितने भी लोगों का इंटरव्यू आया, सब ने जो वहां पर राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया है और जो विधान सभा भंग की गई है, तो उसका समर्थन किया गया है। तो या यह टेलीवीजन का दुरुपयोग नहीं है?

इस देश में ऐसे भी लोग हैं, जिन्होंने वहां राष्ट्रपति शासन लगाये जाने का विरोध किया है और विधान सभा को भंग करने का विरोध किया है लेकिन चूंकि सरकार का इन पर नियंत्रण है, इस विभाग के जो मंत्री हैं, उनका उन पर नियंत्रण है, इसलिए विभाग वालों ने जहां कि आज जी-हजूरी लोगों की संख्या बढ़ती जा रही है यस मिनिस्टर, यस मिनिस्टर ढूंढ-ढूंढ कर जिन लोगों ने समर्थन किया, उनका साक्षात्कार तो करवाया गया है, उनका प्रसारण तो टेलीविजन में करवाया गया, लेकिन एक भी ऐसे व्यक्ति का प्रसारण नहीं करवाया गया जोकि उनकी राय के खिलाफ था।

तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि जब वह अपना उत्तर देंगे तो यह बतायें कि क्या यह विभाग का या सरकारी मीडिया का सदुपयोग है अथवा दुरुपयोग नहीं है? इसीलिए यह सही है कि हमारे संविधान में यह यूनियन लिस्ट में है, ब्राडकास्टिंग का काम यूनियन लिस्ट में है, लेकिन समय-समय पर राज्य सरकारों ने मांग की है कि उनको भी अनुमति प्रदान की जाए कि उनको अपने-अपने राज्यों में टेलीविजन और रेडियो को चालू करने का लाइसेंस दिया जाए। यहां पर सात प्रदेशों के मुख्य मंत्रियों की बैठक अप्रैल, 1987 में दिल्ली में हुई थी, जिसमें पश्चिम बंगाल के मुख्य मंत्री थे, केरल के मुख्य मंत्री थे, कर्नाटक के मुख्य मंत्री थे, त्रिपुरा, पंजाब, आंध्र प्रदेश और असम के मुख्य मंत्री थे। दिल्ली में इनकी बैठक मार्च-अप्रैल 1987 में हुई थी और इन लोगों ने मांग की कि दूसरा चैनल राज्यों में शुरू किया जाए। एक-दो राज्यों ने इसका जिक्र सरकारिया कमीशन ने अपनी रेकमेंडेशन में किया है कि एक-दो राज्यों ने सरकार से इस बात की भी अनुमति मांगी है कि उनको इजाजत दी जाए, लाइसेंस दिया जाए टेलीग्राफ एक्ट के अंतर्गत अपने-अपने राज्य में रेडियो स्टेशन खोलने का।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई): आपकी पार्टी के तीन मिनट बचे हैं।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : तो तीन मिनट के अन्दर खत्म कर देते हैं । मैं सिर्फ यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि जब सुखद मंत्री लोगों ने मांग की है तो इस ओर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए और कम से कम अपने आचरण में सरकार को साबित तो करना चाहिए कि हम निष्पक्ष रूप से इस मीडिया का प्रयोग या दुरुपयोग कर रहे हैं । मैं दो-तीन बातें कह करके अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा सरकारिया कमीशन ने भी इस सिलसिले में चर्चा की है और यह कहा है कि जो राष्ट्रीय प्रसारण है यह अधिकतर अंग्रेजी भाषा में होता है या फिर हिन्दी भाषा में होता है और ऐसी हिन्दी भाषा में होता है जिसको कि दूर के रहने वाले लोग समझ नहीं सकते हैं इतनी क्लिष्ट भाषा का प्रयोग होता है । तो उन्होंने दो सुझाव दिए हैं संविधान के अनुच्छेद 351 की चर्चा करते हुए कि एक तो यह कहा है कि उसमें हिन्दी भाषा का इस तरीके से प्रयोग किया जाए जिसमें कि देशवासी उसको समझ सकें ऐसी हिन्दी हो और उसको उन्होंने हिन्दुस्तानी का नाम दिया है। दूसरा यह भी कहा है कि जो क्षेत्रीय भाषा है उस क्षेत्रीय भाषा में भी राष्ट्रीय प्रसारण होना चाहिए । मैं समझता हूं कि सरकारिया कमीशन ने इस संबंध में जो अपनी संस्तुति की है या उनका जो सुझाव है यह बहुत अच्छा है और सरकार को इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिए । इन्होंने पेज 12 में अपने उद्धरण में कहा है कि :

> "We would suggest that in order to get the maximum benefit in the shortest time possible, those areas which suffer from the maximum coverage in Hindi and English should be accorded the highest priority in linking them with regional broadcasts."

फिर आर्टिकल 351 का उद्धरण देते हुए जैसा कि मैंने ऊपर निवेदन किया उन्होंने कहा है कि साधारण हिन्दी का प्रयोग करना चाहिए और इस देश के अधिकतर लोग न अंग्रेजी समझ पाते हैं बहुत से लोग हिन्दी भी नहीं समझ पाते हैं इसलिए रिजनल भाषा में भी अधिक से अधिक प्रसारण किया जाना चाहिए । एक मांग मैं और करना चाहूंगा कि जो समाचार आते हैं राष्ट्रीय प्रसारण यह हिन्दी में होता है अंग्रेजी में होता है कई बार मैं इस मांग को उठा भी चुका हूं कि जो उर्दू भाषा है उसमें भी राष्ट्रीय प्रसारण किया जाना चाहिए क्योंकि उर्दू भाषा किसी विशेष वर्ग की भाषा नहीं है कुछ लोगों की भाषा नहीं है उर्दू भाषा हमारे भारत की भाषा है और इस तरीके से राष्ट्रीय प्रसारण में दस-पांच मिनट का समय उसको देना चाहिए । दो बातें और कह करके मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा ।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): All the national languages.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: That I have said already and that has been said by the Sarkaria Commission also. The Sarkaria Commission has already recommended it and they have used the word "Vaanoli".

यह भी है कि जो पार्लियामेंट्री कमेटीज हैं संसद का प्रसारण होता है रेडियो में ही जाता है समीक्षा में लेकिन जो पार्लियामेंट्री कमेटीज अच्छा काम करती है सरकारिया कमीशन ने भी इस बात को रेकमेंड किया है कि जो पार्लियामेंट्री कमेटी हैं उनके सिलसिले में भी प्रसारण अच्छे तरीके से करना चाहिए । दो-तीन छोटी-छोटी बातें हैं । एक तो विश्व बन्धु गुप्ता जी ने चर्चा की है कि कोई केलकर कमेटी है उन्होंने कागज के मूल्यों के सिलसिले में कहा है लेकिन एनुअल रिपोर्ट में जो केलकर कमेटी है जिसने लांगटर्म न्यूज प्रिंट एलोकेशन पालिसी के सिलसिले में अगस्त, 1988 ने सरकार के पास कोई संस्तुति भेज रखी है तो मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि उनकी जो संस्तुति है उसको कार्यान्वित करने के लिए सरकार क्या कार्यवाह कर रही है? दूसरा इस विषय से एक 'योजना' मैगजीन छपता है, हिन्दी और अंग्रेजी दोनों में छपता है और चित्त बसु जो की उसमें बहुत पढ़ने का मौका मिलता है तो यह भी मांग की गई कि जो उड़िया सैग्वेज है तथा और जो भाषायें हैं उनमें भी "योजना" का प्रकाशन होना चाहिए, इस मांग को भी मैं रखता हूं । तीसरा, मेरी मांग यह है कि इसका टेलीकास्ट

[श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय]

और ब्राडकास्टिंग की होनी चाहिए हमारे यहां जो कुछ राज्य सभा और लोक सभा में हो रहा है और प्रदेश की विधान सभाओं में भी से जो कुछ होता है। और इसमें आस्ट्रिया, बेल्जियम, डेनमार्क, फ्रांस, फेडरल रिपब्लिक आफ जर्मनी, इजरायल, इटली, जापान, नीदरलैंड, नार्वे, पोलैंड, स्वीडन स्विटजरलैंड, युगोस्लाविया और जेरे, यह इतने मुल्क है, जिनके यहां टेलिकास्टिंग होती है और डायरेक्ट ब्रोडकास्टिंग होती है। इस सिलसिले में सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए क्योंकि काफी कुछ मांग भी की जा रही है। मैं आशा करता हूं, मंत्री जी जब अपना उत्तर देंगे तो इस सिलसिले में हमें अवगत् करायेंगे।

3-00 P.M.

अंत में मैंने जानकारी करने की कोशिश की, बहुत विस्तृत तो नहीं हुई, लेकिन शायद हमारी कोई नेशनल पालिसी नहीं है, हमारी सरकार की कोई नेशनल पालिसी अभी तक नहीं बनी है।... (व्यवधान) ...

श्री कपिल वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश) : यह कम्युनिकेशन की है ...(व्यवधान)

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : मेरा नेशनल मीडिया पालिसी से मतलब है। तो मेरा यह निवेदन है कि नेशनल पालिसी नहीं है, कुछ बेकग्राउड पेपर हमको जरूर मिले थे, इसी से मैं इस नतीजे पर पहुंचा। ...(व्यवधान)... नेशनल ईफोरमेशन पालिसी आप कह लीजिए, यह कम्युनिकेशन तो अलग है। जैसा मैंने शुरू में कहा कि यहां डिफेमेशन हो रही है और इसलिए इस इसपर विचार करके, हमारे जो राष्ट्रीय नेता हैं, विभिन्न राजनैतिक पार्टी के नेता है, उनसे विचार विमर्श करके इस तरह की पालिसी बननी चाहिए, जिसमें कि कम से कम शिकायत का मौका न मिले।

महोदय, परसों यहां राज्य सभा में कुछ हुआ, मैं आप को बताता हूं कि पच्चीस-पचास हजार, एक-एक लाख लोगों की विरोधी दल की मीटिंग होती है, उसका एक वाक्य रेडियो और टेलीविजन पर नहीं आता चित्र आने की बात तो छोड़ दीजिए, लेकिन जिस फोटो की चर्चा यहां की गई सदन में, वह फोटो टेलीविजन पर परसों रात के अंग्रेजी समाचार में भी और हिन्दी के समाचार में भी दिखाया गया। तो मैं इस सब को छोड़ देता हूं कि यह मीडिया का सदुपयोग है या दुरुपयोग है, सरकार को कम से कम इस तरीके से काम करना चाहिए, जनता ने उनके हाथ में सत्ता दे रखी है, कि जो माइनोरिटी के लोग हैं, विपक्ष के लोग हैं, उनको यह अहसास नहीं होना चाहिए कि सरकार इस मीडिया का दुरुपयोग कर रही है। धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mr. Kapil Verma. Fifteen minutes. There are so many Members wanting to speak.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Give me twenty minutes, please. Sir, we are observing the Nehru Centenary Year and at this time, in such an important debate, we have to remember Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru because he, besides being the Prime Minister and a great leader of the country was a great friend of newspapermen.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: But your Government is not following his advice.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: We are following his advice. (*Interruptions*)... Please have patience. The journalist community in the country is deeply grateful to him. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, who before becoming Prime Minister, was not only bringing out a newspaper, 'National Herald', but had been regularly writing for it for 8 or 9 years. I have myself seen his writings, his hand-written writings, and gone through them in detail. And I also have had the privilege of working under him on political front.

Sir, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, always gave a place of respect and prestige to the community of journalists in the country. He was the first to give a statutory wage board to the journalists. There is no other class of workers which has got it. And he gave us the Working Journalists' Act in 1958. Otherwise before that a journalist could be dismissed while walking on a staircase. But I am very sorry to point out that the wage board machinery which Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru had set up with such great patience, such great labour and such great care, has in fact degenerated and become a laughing stock. Sir, as we all know in this House, the latest Wage Board has become a mockery. Its report is being delayed and delayed with the result that, in fact, pressmen have lost all confidence in the efficacy of the Wage Board system. They have also come to believe that probably vested interests have captured the control of the Wage Board and they are running it. Therefore, they should not probably expect any justice from it. In fact, the tentative proposals which they had made earlier have been watered down by themselves. The wage scales have been reduced. Mr. Vice-Chairman, you will be surprised to know that the wage scales which the Wage Board had recommended and on which the voting took place at the last meeting, lay down a minimum salary of only Rs. 1000/- for a working journalist. Sir, you will be surprised to know that the emoluments of even a sweeper or a peon are Rs. 1200/- in O.N.G.C. I do not minimise the dignity of labour. I am only comparing. He gets Rs. 1200/- and the wage scale of a journalist at the starting point is Rs. 1000/-. You will be surprised to know that the House Rent Allowance which the Wage Board has recommended is between Rs. 300/- and Rs. 400/-. Can you get even a small room for Rs. 300/- anywhere in Delhi? The City Compensatory Allowance is between Rs. 20/- and Rs. 60/-. All this is adding insult to injury, if after 10 years of waiting all that the profession of journalism has got is this, then probably they will lose faith in the Wage Board machinery and the efficacy of the Wage Board. Let this Wage Board go on. I do not want to use very strong language. But this Wage Board has completely failed in its obligation to the press community. I would suggest that after this Wage Board the Government should consider another machinery, an automatic machinery which will revise the scales automatically after every three years taking into consideration the rising prices.

The same is the story about pension. The pension for a journalist recommended at the last meeting of the Pension Committee is only Rs. 250/- per month as a minimum proposal. You will be surprised to hear it. What is Rs. 250/- these days? A person retires after spending his whole life to the profession of journalist and all that he gets is a paltry pension of Rs. 250/- per month. This is a pittance. It is better to throw away this report into the dustbin than implement it. I will point out to the Government that this is a commitment of the Government to give a decent pension to journalists. In his budget speech as Finance Minister, Mr. Narayan Datt Tiwari had made a commitment that the Government would introduce a Bill and for this consult various experts for framing a scheme. I am thankful that they set up a committee. What is going to happen now? The Government must intervene in this matter and find a way out by which a decent pension can be given to the journalists.

Sir, I would also submit that the Working Journalists Act which Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru got framed in 1958 has become out-dated. It was very much valid and very much required at that time. But it has become obsolete now. The Government must consult various unions and find out how it can be amended to meet the present day needs and remove the difficulties of newspapermen.

Sir, I am coming to the All India Radio and Television, the electronic media. I would say that the growth and development of the All India Radio is unprecedented. The All India Radio is now the second largest domestic network in the world. After the Seventh Five-Year Plan,

[Shri Kapil Verma]

it will be the biggest Radio network in the world. Sir, the T.V. has had the fastest expansion in the world during such a short period of time.

I would request the Government to increase the time of telecast quickly and give it to more areas because it is a very powerful medium not only for information but also for education and entertainment. At the same time, I would make a few points for the consideration of the Government without going into greater details in view of the fact that you have put, Sir, certain time limit for me.

Sir, I would say that in the border areas the TV coverage is very inadequate. For example, Arunachal Pradesh is 70 per cent without TV coverage. Mizoram is 90 per cent without TV coverage. Jammu and Kashmir is 74 per cent without TV coverage. Rajasthan is 72 per cent without TV coverage. I have received complaints from my friends that in the border areas adjoining Nepal and certain other border countries, the people are not receiving TV and radio signals and the hostile countries or the neighbouring countries are doing hostile propaganda, and our border areas are receiving those signals. And that may create some difficulties for us. Therefore, I would like the Government to take these border areas and certain other sensitive areas into consideration.

Sir, the quality of the TV programmes has improved. But, to my mind, there is a great scope for further improvement. The Government have started many production centres and spent several crores of rupees I would like to know from the hon. Minister—I hope, Mr. Bhagat will reply to me—as to how many serials have been produced by these production centres. They have an army of producers. I want to know how many serials they have produced because Mahabharat and Ramayan and almost all the popular serials are sponsored serials. Mahabharat and Ramayan are very popular not only in India but in certain other countries also. It is seen even in Pakistan. Sir, I would also like to say that the quality of feature films shown particularly on the evenings of Sundays is not very satisfactory. The Government must look into it and try to improve its standard. And why should there be a repetition of bad films? Then, Sir, the cable TV programme and its expansion on such a large scale without proper regulation is something disturbing. And it is being misused. There is film piracy, there is video piracy on a large scale. I hope the Government will bring forward some legislation to control it. Then, coming to commercial advertisements, there are multi-national advertisements, elitist advertisements which has been criticised by the Joshi Committee and certain other Committees. I personally heard two or three days back, certain women in some family Planning advertisements uttering certain vulgar words. They pronounced vulgar words, vulgar in the sense that we in India do not want ladies to pronounce certain words which probably do not seem to be obscene. In the west it may be different, but it is different with us. I hope they will avoid it in future, and I hope they will also avoid films which have sex and violance in abundance.

Sir, I would also like to suggest something about news. It is something very extraordinary that TV does not have a regular parliamentary staff to cover the Parliament it. Whenever I go out, nobody talks of the radio coverage of the news of this House. Everybody talks of Doordarshan. So, Doordarshan must give adequate coverage to the proceedings of Parliament as it represents the will of the people. Everybody wants to know what their representatives are talking. I am surprised to hear that there is no TV reporter covering this House while the All India Radio has an army of reporters. Sir, in my opinion TV must depute reporters, two reporters to the Rajya Sabha and two reporters to the Lok Sabha and thereby there should be proper coverage of both the Houses. They are doing something, the Sansad samahcar and other things are no doubt there. I will here refer to Malaviyaji's criticism. As far as I remember, that statement about Mr. Buta Singh was in the regular TV news and not in Sansad Samachar. In the regular TV news they have a right, in my opinion, as a journalist of 40 years experience, they have a right to telecast statements. Of

course, I am of the opinion that is should be objective, free and fair.

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: I have an objection to what was not.... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: That has to be looked into by the Chair. The question of privilege you have raised and it will be highly improper on my part to say anything about something which is already before the Chairman.

The TV should devote more attention to economic and cultural news and certain events my friend next to me has mentioned. About the All India Radio, I would say that it has taken a back seat after the on-set of television because it is not so glamourous as TV.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Be a Minister and get a wider coverage in the TV.

SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Well, Ministers make news. The Prime Minister makes news. They make policy announcements. I am only a Member. What I say does not make news ordinarily. I do not make policy announcements. I only express my views in which the nation will not be so much interested unless it is something extraordinary or which affects the security of the country or something like that. Sir, since my time is short, I would like to be brief.

Sir, the Radio cultural exchange is very important. The SAARC has passed a resolution and taken certain decisions. But I am surprised to find out that we sent out 2,585 cassettes of programmes, but the programmes we received from outside numbered only 479. Now, what kind of exchange is this? It is highly unbalanced and we must look into it.

The monitoring service is another very very important item. We monitor what other countries are talking about us. You will be surprised if I tell you that for broadcasts from China in which we are intensely interested, we have only one regular monitor in the All India Radio listening to Chinese radio and two casuals. What is this red tape coming in the way of appointments? Are you playing with the security of the country? We must know what China is saying about us. And we have no monitoring at all about France or Spain. You now Spanish language, all our friends in the opposition who have been abroad, know that Spanish is very popular language in Europe and similarly there is Swahili language in Africa in which we are interested. But we have no monitors. We do not know what they are talking about us. I hope they will reorganise their monitoring system. I had put a question asking them to reorganise the monitoring service and fill up those posts which are vacant.

Sir, why our media news is so dull? Here I would make one suggestion. I had an opportunity during this summer of visiting Moscow when Gorbachev and Reagan were meeting. After that I spent a week in London, because I am a journalist, and am interested in studying the functioning of BBC and the functioning of British newspapers. After every T.V. bulletin my suggestion to the Minister is that you have a capsule, a small capsule of analyses and background. whenever there is a big event taking place somewhere, then within a minute or two minutes, you explain what is the significance of that news items. Put the news story in perspective and interpret it and say what is going to happen in future. That is why people are interested in BBC. Is it not shameful for us that even for domestic news. we listen to BBC? It is because they interpret news analyse it. For example we are having some crisis. Their analysis must come immediately after the news. Some well-known correspondents who are posted abroad or at places of occurence will analyse the whole thing. So, there should be more visuals in our news; we should have our correspondents in other countries and they must voicecast from there and tell us what is really happening. What is happening today in the television is, they are just using the master copy of the All India Radio; that is all. What is this master copy? It is made mostly by

[Shri Kapil Verma]

the UNI and the PTI. What does a radio correspondent say? Sometimes he will say so and so is going to visit such and such places or met so and so Sir, we have spent thousands of rupees on them to tell us some inside story, something more, some analysis of the events or their background. Why do the people read British or U.S. newspapers and central pages of some of our daily papers? It is because they get a good analysis of events on the central page. (*Time bell rings.*) I have one or two observations to make and I will conclude.

Now about the Films Division, Sir, I visited Films Division in Bombay; I went to Pune also and visited Film institute. In the Films division at Bombay I found that the full potential is not being utilised. The number of documentaries has been cut on the plea that there is television. But television does not reach villages, and even if it reaches a village, we don't know whether the television sets there are working or not. There may be power shortage; there may be mechanical defects and so many other things. But these films can reach those villages. We have to make use of these films for national integration, for the unity of the country, for fighting religious fundamentalism and for creating communal harmony. These films can do wonderful work for us. Similarly there is Publication Division Books worth lakhs of rupees are lying in stock; they are not sold. The Government must look into these things.

I am grateful for this opportunity to participate and I hope the Government will look into these suggestions quickly. About the second channel also, my friend Mr. Malaviya referred to it. I have just enquired and I am told that it will cost Rs. 3000 crores to put the second channel. That is the figure given by the Government. I hope the Government will look into it. I also hope the Minister will reply point by point to issues raised by me.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM (West Bengal): I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to take part in the discussion on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. You are aware that this Ministry has a declared objective and according to one of the annual reports of the Ministry, the objective is mainly to inform, to educate and to entertain the people, to create an awareness in the people regardig the problems and the potentials of the country, and to solicit their participation, and among other things, the objective is to promote national security, national in tegrity and communal harmony, etc. On paper definitely, the objective is laudable. But assessing the working of the Ministry, I am constrained to say that this objective has not been translated into practice and the Ministry is rather not serious about it. This declared objective of the Ministry is sought to be achieved through different media units attached to the Ministry and of these media units that we have, two powerful media units today are Akashvani and Doordarshan. There is no denying the fact that there has been achievement in the expansion of television and broadcasting facilities in our country in recent years. I am not giving the figures. The figures are in the Annual Report. But what I would like to emphasise is this. This quantitative expansion of television and radio network in our country has not been matched by a qualitative improvement in the content of the programmes and format of the programmes.

In the given social and economic situation in our country, it is the minimum expectation that these two powerful media, radio and television, should serve the country in an objective, in a socially responsible way. There should be more and more of such programmes which help to foster the spirit of secularism among the vast masses of our country, to promote national unity and integrity, to promote modern and scientific outlook among the people and to inculcate scientific bent of mind, among the vast masses of our country. But Sir, the performance of these two media reveals that these two media still lag very much in these fields.

When the country's unity and integrity is threatened by more and more subversive activities, by communalism and communal disturbances in different parts of the country, I would like to know, what are the programmes on television and radio, at present, which try to strike at the root of communalism and foster the spirit of secularism among the different people of our country. There may be some programmes. But the attempt should be a continuous one, to foster the spirit of secularism among the people of our country. Here, I would like to reiterate our concept of secularism. By secularism, we, from our side, do not mean patronage and support to all religious by the Government, by the State. This is not the correct idea of secularism. Secularism should mean that it should not be used to achieve political gains. It should not be mixed with politics. To my understanding, some programmes on television instead of fortering the spirit of secularism among the people of our country, are generating, what may be termed as religiosity among different people.

Another thing to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is, even after 42 years of Independence, more than half the people of our country, about half the people of our country, suffer from different types of prejudices, have superstitions and lack a scientific temper. Here again, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the specific programmes on television, what are the specific programmes on All-India Radio, which are helping to create a scientific temper, to disseminate scientific knowledge, modern knowledge, among the people of our country. These programmes are not definitely frequent. In fact, such programmes are very few. On the other hand, the emphasis is on programmes which will enable the ruling party at the Centre to catch votes. To my understanding again, the programmes on Doordarshan and All-India Radio these two powerful media, are to be assessed in the context of the working of Parliamentary democracy in our country. We all know that parliamentary democracy, as one of its essential norms, acknowledges on the one hand the right of the majority party to govern, but parliamentary democracy also acknowledges the right of the opposition to criticise the Government wherever criticism is necessary and this function of criticising the Government devolves on the opposition as a matter of right and not as a matter of grace to the opposition by the majority party. Apart from other things, the opposition, like the majority party in power, should have adequate share, should have adequate coverage in this Government-controlled media, the Akashwani and the Doordarshan, but what is our experience? While covering political matters and news these two media still continue to be distinctly partisan to the ruling party at the Centre. Of late, these two media are busy with projecting the image of the ruling party at the Centre and its leader. On several occasions there is almost virtual blackout of news and views critical of the Centre. There are frequently distorted and suppressed news regarding the national opposition parties. I would just like to remind you that on the 9th March last year, that is 1988, some of the national opposition parties gave a call for a Bharat Bandh as a mark of protest against the misdeeds of the present Government at the Centre and you remember how this media on the eve of the Bharat Bandh had been geared up for anti-Bandh propaganda. Two hon. Ministers of the Government of India were given the opportunity to speak on Doordarshan against the Bandh, but in spite of repeated requests from opposition, no opposition leader was invited by these two media to explain why the Bandh was called. This is the attitude. I would also like to remind the hon. Members that these two media deliberately missed one of the most unique events in the history of independent India. That was on August 15, 1987, when more than 3 million people stood with their hands linked, spanning 693 kms. from Trivandrum to Kasergode,

[Shri Mostafa Bin Quasem]

pledgeding their support for the cause of national unity and communal harmony. Such a historic incident lost sight of Akashwani and Doordarshan. The trend continues. There is no change. I would like to refer to an important matter concerning the Calcutta Doordarshan. Towards the end of January this year, 1989, a massive rally was held in connection with the State Conference of one of the biggest and organised students organisations of our country, the Students Federation of India, in Berhampur in West Bengal. Shri Jyoti Basu, the Chief Minister of the State, addressed the rally. But there was no coverage by the Calcutta Doordarshan while on the same day a relatively smaller rally was organised by the Kisan Congress, it was addressed by, with all respect to the persons who addressed, the local Congres(I) leaders and this rally was given excessive coverage in terms of news and in terms of visual publicity. Sir, I would just like to draw the attention of this House that even when the Prime Minister is in praise of an opposition-ruled State for the successful operation of the panchayat system these two media do not hesitate to censor even the Prime Minister. He becomes a casualty. Only recently the Prime Minister, while addressing the Panchayat Conference in Karnataka, rightly praised the Government of West Bengal and its Chief Minister for the successful working of the panchayat system. The Doordarshan was giving that news, and when it came just to that portion, all on a sudden, abruptly it ended the sentence and the Prime Minister became the casualty.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Because he was appreciating the Left Front Government.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Sir, the States are not given their due share.

SHRI SUKOMAL SEN (West Bengal): Mr. Bhagat is very efficient... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Bhagatji has fallen asleep! As we very often fall asleep while listening to Doordarshan and AIR, he has fallen asleep while listening to the Opposition speakers.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I told you that he is hearing each and every word.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): When I speak tomorrow, you will know whether I was asleep or not I was not.. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I was saying just now, when you were asleep, whether a man can hear when he falls asleep!

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: I assure you, I can repeat every word of what your colleague has said right now If you want, I can rehearse it. I was not asleep.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: You can heat even while you are asleep!

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: It may look to you that I was asleep but, I tell you, I was not asleep.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I assured him that you were hearing each and every word.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: He is supposed to hear... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Even his last point mentioning the PM's visit, his reference to the Bengal panchayats, is noted by me very well. This is with me. Do you think I noted it down while asleep?

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Sir, the State Government's general, do not get adequate coverage in the TV, and the Opposition-ruled States and their Governments are particularly discriminated against. I can give so many examples.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Another five minutes. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Sir, please don't behave like a TV Editor! We are already deprived of TV coverage.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGDISH DESAI): He has already taken 15 minutes. The time allotted is 15 minutes but I have allowed him five minutes more.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Sir, the distressing phenomenon is this. When there is a disparity between the views held by the Central Government and the views held by the State Government, particularly Governments of States ruled by the Opposition, these two media immediately turn to be the mouthpiece of the Central Government and become staunch critics of the State Governments. In this connection, in the same vein, I would like to draw your attention to an injustice—I will call it an injustice—meted out to the Government of West Bengal. Sir, you are aware of the continued opposition and non-cooperation of the Government of India. . . . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I am not aware of.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Sir, if I proceed for a moment it will come to your mind. It is their non-cooperation with the Government of West Bengal in its endeavour to install a thermal power station at Bakreshwar in West Bengal. Because of the non-cooperative attitude, ultimately the Government of West Bengal decided to start with the installation of the projects on its own. Sir, the Government of West Bengal, through an advertisement of only 30 seconds duration, wanted to make an appeal through Akashvani and Doordarshan to the people for generous financial contribution for installation of this project, and these two media rejected the proposal, the request of the Government of West Bengal on the plea that it is against the norm of Akashvani. May I know from the hon. Minister: What is the norm? The norm of Akashvani is to cover everything which is liked by the Central Government and to obstruct coverage of anything liked by the State Government and disliked by Central Government even if that be in the overall interest of the well-being of the people of that State. This is the standard, this is the norms set by Akashvani and Doordarshan.

We boast of having a federal polity in our country. We all know that in federal countries all over the world the old concept of dualistic federalism has been discarded and it has been substituted by the new concept of co-operative federalism. We also say that we want to have co-operative federalism, and we claim that we have co-operative federalism. Does this attitude of hostility, does this attitude of confrontation by the Central Government towards the State Government bear testimony to its adherence to the concept of co-operative federalism? This smacks of a monopolistic attitude. One may even smell an authoritarian attitude, in this gesture of the Government of India.

Sir, I draw your kind attention and the attention of this hon. House to all these phenomena just to show that these two media are being misused by the Government of India to subserve its own political interests at the cost of major national opposition parties of the country.

Sir, I know I am nearing the end of the five minutes. Another example, I forgot. With your permission, I would like to mention that on the 24th of January this year the Calcutta University decided to confer posthumously D. Litt. on the deceased Safdar Hashmi—you must be knowing—the celebrated dramatist, actor and producer, who was brutally murdered while taking part in a street drama in the vicinity of Delhi by persons, it is reported, having Congress (I) connections. The TV people were present outside the venue of the convocation. While Prof. Nurul Hasan, Chancellor and Governor of West Bengal was conferring the degree, giving the degree in the hands of Malaishri Hashmi, wife of the deceased dramatist, the TV did not cover that part of the convocation programme. (*Interruptions*). What does it smack of? Is it an attitude of mutual co-operation, mu-

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tual trust? Anything not liked by the Central Government has got no possibility of being given publicity by the media howsoever imporant it may be from another point of view.

Before I conclude, I would like to make my observation on two things, with your permission. Perhaps, this is for the first time that I have an occasion to beg for some extra time from you one or two minutes.

Sir I would like to draw the attention of the Government to distressing things related to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The first is the problem of video piracy. Of course, video piracy is a global problem today. Our country is also proving no exception to this. According to the film people video cassettes of Indian films are exchanged abroad even before their domestic release. This is adversely affecting the film industry of our country. We know that the Government of India took some legislative measure to strike at this problem in the form of amending the Cinematograph Act of 1952, the Copyright Act and by amending the Copyright Certification Rules. But even after enacting these legislative measures, video piracy is going on unabated in our country. I would urge upon the Gavernment to take the State Governments into confidence and to motivate the State Government for sincere implementation of the existing Acts. The Government should also think of enacting a stringent act to check this problem.

Another incidental menace is the mushroom growth of video parlours even in the remote villages of our country. There has been an unrestricted growth of this. It is reported that pirated versions of films are shown there. Even blue films are being shown in these vide parlours. One of the major reasons for the unrestricted growth of video parlours is the fact that no licence is necessary for it. I think a time has come when the Government of India should immediately think of enacting a legislation for licensing video parlours in our country.

Coming to the film industry, which is also related to this problem, there is a constant demand from different quarters for recognising film industry as an industry and to extend it facilities which are available to other industries would urge upon the Government to act upon it.

We talk of national integration, but just by a mere broadcast from a particular Centre in languages not known to the people of the locality, one cannot achieve national integrity and unity. National unity and integrity is a more complex challenge today. The diverse culture, the diverse way of life of the people of different parts of the country should be given coverage and that should be projected. Because of the injustice done to the State Governments, because of the necessity of more regional programmes, because of projecting local cultures in an increased way, there is a demand from some of the State Governments that the management of the second channel of the Doordarshan Kendra in a State should be given to the State Governments. To our understanding it is a legitimate demand. But the Central Government is sitting tight over this demand of the State Governments mainly on the plea that for the overall national interest, duality of control is not desirable. This stand of the Government of India is based on a false notion that it is the Government of India which alone is concerned with national unity and integrity, that it is only their business and the State Governments or the different political parties who may be heading Government in some State, have no business with this. This is a false concept. The Government of India should review its policy and immediately take suitable measures so that the management of the second channel as well as the management of a channel of Akashvani may be handed over to the State Governments. With this I conclude.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is not only one of the important Ministries but it is also very sensitive because it deals with the people and their lives every day. Sir, the ascendancy of the electronic

media and its presence has been so pervasive that the Ministry has virtually become the Ministry for audio-visual broadcasting and information through other media is gradually losing its importance. Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Seventh Plan outlay of the Ministry which is Rs. 1,535 crores out of which AIR and Doordarshan have received Rs. 1,463 crores and the remaining 15 wings of the film and information media got only Rs. 71 crores or less than 5 per cent of the Plan outlay. Sir, if you take the actual performance so far in the four years including this year 1989-90. Rs. 54 crores have been allocated and the expenditure is Rs. 42.39 crores. That means the expenditure has fallen short by Rs .12 crores which actually means that only 4 per cent of the money has gone to the remaining wings, 96 per cent has been taken away by AIR and Doordarshan. We have been given to understand in all the meetings of the Consultative Committee that the other wings also are equally important. My first query to the hon. Minister would be whether these wings of the Information and Broadcasting will be given equal importance, if not more. Sir, if we take All India Radio first, I find in the map of the AIR stations that the States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and even Andhra Pradesh find little peace. Sir, talking bout my own State, there is only one station each in Saurashtra and Kutch and no station at all in North Gujarat. This shows that in the Eighth Five Year Plan projections would have to be made in order to see that those areas which are not covered by the radio stations are also brought into the map which the Ministry has provided to us in the Annual Report. Sir, All India Radio has 101 full-time correspondents and 232 part-time correspondents. It has some stations abroad too, one of them in Dubai. Sir, last year I was told that the Ambassadors of all the places in the Middle-East had suggested that there should be a correspondent in Jeddah in Saudi Arabia which is the most important commercial centre in the Middle-East. Not only that 50,000 pilgrims visit Saudia Arabia every year and they live there for two or more months. Therefore, if you cannot shift your correspondent from Dubai, at least one more correspondent is necessary in Jeddah.

Sir, All India Radio has also recorded archival music of four artists under its own title, which is a recently started programme and two more are coming but I find that these are not available so easily. I would like to know whether they would be made available for the music-lovers in this country. Sir, the annual report also says that AIR has aired 62,000 programmes on themes relating to national integration and communal harmony and 8,800 on family welfare each month. Still, communal incidents are on the rise and the population is fast multiplying. What is wrong with the programme ? I have made a mention of it earlier also that the programme should have an impact on the masses and the contents should be such that the message of communal harmony is taken to the vast corners, to the remotest places of this country and at least if so many programmes are being aired, there should be some sort of an impact on the people of this country. Sir, for that there is a special programme. I commend AIR for having O.B. units in different parts of the country I would only plead that these O.B. units should be placed in the remote areas, in the hilly areas, in the desert areas of this country so that people can take advantage of the same. Sir, the expansion of Doordarshan has been remarkable. Sir, according to the annual report, it will cover 83 per cent of the population and 67 per cent of the area by the end of the current plan period. The most important fact to which I want to draw the attention of the Government is the availability of the satellites. Much will depend on the availability of satelites. The introduction of satellite-based regional service in identified States other than Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra will depend upon availability of facilities in the space sector. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what are the projections for future and whether these regional programmes will be covered in other States

[Shri Raoof Valiullah]

other than Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and to some extent Tamil Nadu also. I am happy that the news and current affairs and news-oriented programmes in Doordarshan are given more attention. But I would like to point out one thing that in the national news, Delhi-oriented events are extensively covered compared to some of the important events which are taking place in other parts of the country. I was told that the capsules which come from the State capitals arrive late or even if they are in time, they are not picked up so that they could be televised on the same day. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether arrangements have been made in order that the capsules from different parts of the country could come in time so that regional events important events in the region also can be covered on the same day along with other events which happen in Delhi. Sir, Doordarshan's revenue from advertisements and sponsored programmes will reach Rs. 150 crores by the end of 1989-90 but along with the revenue collection, the quality of the programmes must also improve. On advertisements, the Ministry has announced the setting up of a high-powered committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to have a fresh look into all aspects of commercial advertisements on Doordarshan. This was a demand from the Members for the last two years and I am happy that the Ministry has 4.00 P.M. conceded it. I would like to suggest that experts like social scientists, representatives from women's organisations and even the MRTP Commission could so that the concept and the policy of commercial ads can take a concerte shape and we can have better quality advertisements on Doordarshan. Sir, Doordarshan has also launched a new schemt to enroll talented and experienced producers and directors. A selection board has been constituted, I believe, under the chairmanship of the Joint Secretary in the Ministry. But there are more than 5000 applications and the hon. Minister, the then Minister of State who was in charge of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, had promised us that this is a continuous process and the applications will be re-invited and those who have been left out will also be registered. I would like to know when the process of election from these 5000 applications will be over. When will the new registrations start? Will those have been left out also be given a chance to register as directors and producers for Doordarshan?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULALH : I have four or five more points.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : No. Two minutes more.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Sir, Doordarshan deserves credit for telecasting special programmes for rural areas and sports. But, I believe, due care should be taken to promote Indian sports and games so that the people of this country also know that such games and sports which are being played in this country have also importance.

Sir, the Films Division is one of the oldest wings in the Ministry. We had an opportunity to visit its headquarters in Bombay. Several films on India's freedom-struggle have been produced and some are being completed. The annual report mentions that a film on one Shri Pannalal Patel is being produced. I do not know—being a Member from Gujarat—whether Mr. Pannalal Patel happened to be a freedom-fighter. I know that Sardar Patel was one of them. (*Interruptions*). But I believe that there is some mistake. Mr. Pannalal Patel was a contemporary poet. He died very recently. And I believe that the information given in the report needs correction and I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has some information on this Mr. Pannalal Patel.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : Please conclude. You have already taken 14 minutes. Just one minute more.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Why are you so unkind ? Youngsters are speaking. Allow them to speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : How can I give more time ? There are 11 Congress Members.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : Sir, the Directorate of Film Festivals is now once again with the Ministry after its honeymoon with the NFDC for over seven years. I do not know what made the Government take the decision. But I would like to know the rationale behind such a decision. Also, there was a film festival for documentary films. It was given to the Films Division much against the wishes of producers and film-makers and many other organizations who questioned why it was not given to the Directorate of Film Festivals and why it was given to the Films Division which itself produces documentary films. There has been no answer from the Ministry. I would like the Government to clarify what made the Government take the decision that this festival should be given to the Films Division. We had an opportunity to visit the Film and Television Institute of India in Pune. There is an agitation going on there by the students. I believe that then Secretary of Information and Broadcasting Ministry visited the place and made some proposals and the proposals have been conveyed to the students. I would like to know whether there is any response from the students to these new proposals so that a beautiful institution can develop. My next point is ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : No more new points, please.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH : I have only two important points now.

A Bill to amend the Press and Registration of Books Act 1867 was introduced in this House on 5th December 1988 and the Government had then promised, had assured, that there would be wide-ranging consultations with the people concerned. I would like to know, since 1,86,000 titles have been blocked and many people are facing trouble and difficulty in getting a title, what the reaction of the Government is and whether the Government would come forth at least in the next Session with the Bill for consideration and passing.

Lastly, the Kelkar Committee which was appointed for long-term newsprint allocation policy, has already submitted its report in August 1988. It is still under the consideration of the Government. In the meantime there has been a hue and cry about the shortage of newsprint in the country. I would like the honourable Minister also to clarify what the present position is and when the recommendations of the Kelkar Committee are going to be accepted.

Finally, about the Song and Drama Division in regard to which—its workers, its employees, are not a dying cadre—the honourable Minister had promised that a separate Director would be appointed. But still a separate Director has not been appointed for the Song and Drama Division. The Director of Field Publicity is also the Director of the Song and Drama Division. And the recommendations of the Suman Dubey Committee have also not been accepted *in toto*. I would request the honourable Minister to throw some light and give clarifications on the points I have raised in the discussion today on the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now Mrs Renuka Chowdhury. Only fifteen minutes, please.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): I may not take even that... (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): The clapping is for the houourable Member who has just finished his speech.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: The clapping could be for her also. She is an intellectual speaker....

SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Kulkarni is the greatest admirer of Mrs. Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: She is coming from that party of N.T. Rama Rao.

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, I hope the young lady Member from Andhra Pradesh will not misunderstand me. I am going inside to attend the Business Advisory Committee and my young colleague will be carefully attending to you.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It is an insult to her. I have commended her as an intellectual smart lady.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, at the very outset I want to tell the Minister who is present that I am not indulging in a slanging match, I am not speaking merely as an Opposition Member and I am not standing here to criticise. It must be a constructive exercise and any debate we do here should not be reduced to a farce whereby for the sake of speaking we speak and for the sake of listening they listen and still the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting goes on doing what it should not be doing.

At the very outset let us examine what the fundamental philosophy of information and broadcasting is. We feel the debate should be well-informed. What does 'well-informed' mean? If I am not mistaken, this fundamental right to information is not peculiar just to India as a democracy. It has been a fight which people in any democracy have been putting up ever since democracy came into existence. And, if I am not mistaken, the first Constitutional amendment of the US Constitution was the right to information and, when we as the second largest democracy in the world talk of democracy, this right starts from there where we have the fundamental right to information. Unless we are informed in a democracy, how do we prove to be constructive, how do we grow and how do we progress? And, Sir, why do we need a Ministry of Information and Broadcasting? Is it to channelise their efforts? Why I should be talking about something as the right to be informed as my basic right, as something so natural, and as something to be taken for granted? It is because I as a citizen of this country, as a citizen of independent India, have the fundamental right to know what is happening within my country. Do I really need a Ministry to be a conduit between me and my people? Even if we do have it, for administrative purposes, is the Ministry really doing what it should be doing? Do we inform, do we disinform, or worse still, do we misinform or do we indulge only in denials? Why has this aspect come up now? The whole subject can be divided into two aspects: the Press and the media. What is the Press? Is it an adversary of the ruling Government in any State or at the Centre? Is it an ally? Sir, I feel that, ideally speaking, the Press is not anybody's agent and it cannot work as an agent of somebody. The Press is an agency, an agency through which any individual in this country has the right to seek information and to receive it, and the fundamental function of the Press hence should not be hampered. But what does the Ministry do in actuality? In actuality, under the guise of administrative channelisation, we are bringing about unwarranted pressures and the approach to the Press by the Government is suspicious. After all, what is the Press telling us about? They are telling us about Kamala, the woman who was sold. They are telling us about the Bhagalpur blinding; they are telling us about the Kuo oil deal; they are telling us about....

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Bofors.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Bofors. And, Sir, they are telling us about.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The Thakkar Commission Report.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes, they tell us about the Thankkar Commission Report, as my colleague has enlightened me. What have they said about the Thakkar Commission Report? It is only proved that when you try to suppress something, when you are going to suppress the basic truth, the basic in-

formation, you are only afraid. You are afraid because information under this Ministry may mean power and you do not want to share your power with the people of the country and because you are inherently afraid of, you know, getting destabilized yourself, since you are not fundamentally strong, you are afraid. But the pity is that the attention of the whole country was drawn to the Thakkar Commission Report. Why? The whole exercise was about why the Government indulged in this, why an incumbent Prime Minister died. Why the incumbent Prime Minister died is not yet answered. Millions in this country are sitting up and seeing what is happening. What did happen is not that a civil servant was appointed or not appointed. The merits or demerits of that individual are not the issue. That is not the fundamental thing that I mean. The basic question of the Thakkar Commission remains unanswered. Why? Because the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is not believing in sharing its power with us and they are not believing that I am an integral part of this country and that I as a citizen of this country have the right to information.

Now, Sir, I am not going to quibble about their policy of not allowing a piece of information like this to be known to the public. But, Sir, when they exercise these executive powers, when they curb the Press by having control over the newsprint, what is to be done? Sir, they have put a 25 per cent hike on glazed paper and then the definition of glazed paper also is what they say. You cannot define it because it is against their autonomy. Nobody has the right to redefine it. Then every magazine which uses the so-called glazed paper as they define it will face difficulties.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Not only *Sunday* but all the newspapers have used glazed paper.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: In that case, the definition of 'glazed paper' is the right of the Ministry. How does the Press go about utilizing its machinery, its system, to communicate to the masses? And then we have control over the Government advertising. To whom are advertisements being given? You see the editorials and you yourself will come to know to whom advertisements are being given. And that, to use a very ugly word, is blackmail. You put pressure so that they have to survive. Yet, at the same time, the Ministry is unable to curb real yellow journalism. Magazines flourish here and there where absolute filth is written not only about responsible pepple in various aspects of life but our nation. Now, the Ministry does nothing about it. But perfectly legitimate papers like the Statesman are being harassed. Against the Indian express three hundred cases have been registered, where they have been raided repeatedly. What is the message that we are trying to say? Can I today with conviction say that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting does believe in the basic philosphy in a democracy, that is the right to inform. the right to know? Obviously not.

Then, Sir, as Mr. Haksar once very well and rightly put it: Individually we are all mortal, it is only collectively that we are immortal. Therein lies the essence of what all my colleagues have said, whether it is national integrity, whether we talk about any other system, whether we talk of India as a people, my people of this country. Then we say that is immortality, collective immortality. Unless we as a people work together, we cannot achieve immortality. But what is it we are indulging in. We are indulging in promoting 'ek' individual. No individual can rise or be placed above the people of this country. It has proven to be an expensive exercise, particularly when the individual has lost his or her unique position, there is nothing new for me to promote this man or woman whom you choose to, and the media is bulldozed into promoting this person and the people are coerced into swallowing it. It is a difficult exercise. We have lost our basic perspective. We have lost the fundamental comprehension of what is required by our people.

To get down to broadcasting, what do we broadcast? Is it really broadcasting or are we shifting it into a propaganda machine? There are channels 1, 2 and 3

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

and tomorrow in the outer space channel also we are going to show the same person. Is it required? What is it we are trying to prove? How do the people of my country react to this? Is there an analysis available with the Ministry about the viewership and the figures that have been attained by them, the credibility factor of this individual and hence the credibility of the agency?

Sir, it is not meant as an exercise of character assassination of any individual that I am saying this. But I am speaking this in anguish. We are unable to reach our targets because we have no goal. We are having more and more budget allocations where the perspective is not clear. There is no comprehensive picture of what we are trying to promote. You have got to review your broadcasting philosophy and you have got to take the States into consideration. Have you ever walked into a rural area where the TV is talking on a alien point to them? The average response is that the individual gets up and turns it off. Even in the most remote, uneducated areas and districts where they have no entertainment and they have not seen a picture even like a silent movie, they get up and turn it off. So, if we say that we have so many thousand units or so many lakh T. Vs. put up, that we have many broadcasting stations put up and that we have this and that put up, there is no sense in that simply, because the people don't understand. They cannot comprehend. You have not been able to reach and talk to them in the language that they know. I do understand the problems and the limitations of the Ministry because we are such a large nation and we have so many languages. But unless a State is given an autonomous channel, both broadcasting and television, it cannot work. We cannot reach the optimum reach and our target audience loses out. The target audience that we plan for is totally unrealistic. We are totally using the westernised concept of commercials repeatedly. I have been saying this on the floor of this House that the commercials that are used through the T.V. and movies which have such tremendous reach and such terrific influence over the minds of these people just scramble the audience because you are promoting an alien economy. We are promoting 'Noori'. We are promoting soft drinks in districts where we don't have even drinking water, where we have had drought, where we have had famine. My people cannot understand why our farmers are killing themselves when the cotton crop fails them. Yet there is an uncanance on the television in terms of commercials. It is so particularly because we have such a low literacy rate. So, the people are questioning us. There is a yawning gap between what we are trying to project and what we are trying to teach them. We have got to take cognizance of this. The rural India needs a totally different T.V. We cannot project Delhi and Bombay. That is not rural India. Political *meccas* are political *meccas*. Your voters are all over the country and they need to be catered to for their own needs. It is important that we take cognizance of them.

Sir, I feel that the stranglehold of the Government of India has got to relieve itself, learn to unwind from the throats of the media people.

Then, Sir, I have two or three small points which I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to. The Press Information Bureau in Madurai, a small place like Madurai, has a full-fledged Information Officer whereas in Vijayawada where we have more than 10 dailies printed, we have an Assistant Information Officer. Would you please consider upgrading the post so that we can deal with that?

We have discrimination between the U.N.I. and the P.T.I. agreement. They have put up their representation. The agreement covering the period 1987-88 is yet to be signed with the A.I.R. and the agencies. Would you please speedily expedite that? I think the UNI and the PTI should be treated equally and whatever is there to be shared should be shared equally by both of them.

There is another thing more important. I want to have one word with the Minister about the artistes who participate

in the media programmes. Most of them are poorly paid. There is no adequate accommodation for them. They are not looked after anywhere. How can you expect creativity, sustained creativity, more creativity when you have no moral obligation towards them? Some amount of insecurity is conducive to creativity, but not total starvation. These poor people who contribute so much, who are really the most popular people in the country after the Defence Service personnel, who travel all over promoting national integration through song, drama and dance, are treated like second-rate citizens in their own nation. They have got to be paid much better wages. They have got to be looked after. They have got to be treated better, better than just the average people. They are creative. They are contributing consciously towards something that is conducive to national harmony. You particular to really say.

Sir, I do not have anything else in particular to really say.

But I would like to tell the Minister once again that I remember, when I came here some years ago as a new Member, my maiden speech was made on Information and Broadcasting. And what is distressing today is that after so many years, very little has changed, and there is no point in indulging in this exercise of words or slanging matches or whatever you choose to interpret the ideas and thoughts when people of my country still tune in to a foreign news agency to get their information right, when I as a citizen, am not informed that my Prime Minister is dead, when I as a citizen, am not informed that a State Government in my country has been toppled, and when I as a citizen, am not aware that a woman in Deorala district has committed 'sati', and despite all our so-called 21st century changes and advance and speed and technology that we are talking about, we are still quibbling about the fundamental right to knowledge, the right to information, the right to know, we are still going to indulge in denying that to the people of this nation. Please view this as a total, objective, constructive suggestion.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): We have a very quiet Renuka today.

Now, Smt. Veena Verma.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) : धन्यवाद, उप सभाध्यक्ष महोदय । जो सदस्य सरकारी मीडिया के दुरुपयोग की बात कर रहे हैं मैं उन्हें कहना चाहती हूं कि सूचन एवं प्रसारण मंत्रालय का उद्देश्य जनता में उसके राष्ट्र, उसके इतिहास, विविधता, विरासत, परम्परा एवं उसकी प्रगति तथा उससे जुड़ी समस्याओं के प्रति चेतना जागृत करना है । यह मंत्रालय सरकार, उसके क्रियाकलापों, उसकी नीतियों और कार्यक्रमों की जानकारी का प्रसार करता है तथा उसके कार्यों एवं निर्णयों के औचित्य को रेखांकित करता है ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Mrs. Veena Verma, not more than 10 minutes. I cannot give more than 10 minutes to Congress Members.

श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा : यह विकास और आधुनिकीकरण का संदेश जन-जन तक पहुंचाता है तथा आर्थिक और सामाजिक परिवर्तन लाने, राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा को सुदृढ़ करने एवं सरकार की नीतियों और कार्यक्रमों में जन सहयोग तथा भागीदारी के लिए अनुकूल पृष्ठभूमि का निर्माण करता है । आजादी के बाद पिछले चार दशकों में यह मंत्रालय अपने उद्देश्यों की पूर्ति करने में बहुत सफल रहा है, मंत्रालय बधाई का पात्र है । देखा जाए तो इस मंत्रालय का उद्देश्य तो महत्वपूर्ण है ही, साथ ही चुनौती भरा भी है । आज मीडिया के क्षेत्र में जो तकनीकि क्रांति हुई है उसके माध्यम से जनता तक पहुंचना अत्याधिक आसान हो गया है । सरकारी सूचनाओं, नीतियों के प्रसारण में दूरदर्शन व रेडियो ने महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका अदा की है, परन्तु मनोरंजन के नाम पर दूरदर्शन में प्रोग्रामों के नाम पर जिस तरह संयोजन होता है वह विचारनीय

[श्रीमती वीणा वर्मा]

है । टी० वी० सीरियलों के प्रसारण में गुणवत्ता सुधारने की दशा में निरंतर प्रयास करना चाहिए । रामायण, महाभारत आदि सीरियल देश की एकता, अखंडता, धर्म निरपेक्षता व सामाजिक सौहार्द बनाने में मदद कर रहा है रामायण, महाभारत जैसे सीरियल तो विदेशों में भी बहुत प्रसिद्ध हैं पर इन सीरियलों की कथा प्रामाणिकता पर अधिक ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। सीरियल लोगों का मनोरंजन करने के करने के साथ-साथ शिक्षाप्रद अवश्य होने चाहिए किले का रहस्य जैसे सीरियल्ज देख कर बच्चे डरने लगे ह इनसे क्या शिक्षा मिल रही है, नहीं मालूम । टी० वी० पर प्रसारित फीचर फिल्मज का स्तर पहले से काफी सुधरा है लेकिन और सुधारा जाना बाकी है। टी० वी० विज्ञापनों की बाढ़ को रोक पाना असंभव है पर सवाल यह है कि इन विज्ञापनों द्वारा दूरदर्शन हमारे देश की संस्कृति को क्यों बेच रहा है ? पश्चात् विज्ञापनों द्वारा पश्चात् संस्कृति का स्वागत हम कब तक करेंगे ? क्या हजारों साल पुराने भारतीय संस्कृति को हम कुछ मिनटों में के विज्ञापनों द्वारा नष्ट कर देंगे विज्ञापन ऐसे हों जो कि रुचिकर, मनोरंजनक, सूचना प्रद व हमारी भारतीय संस्कृतिक परिवेश में में होनी चाहिए । विज्ञापन को एक नीति अवश्य तय की जानी चाहिए । छोटा परिवार, दहेज, स्वास्थ्य, बाल विवाह आदि अनेक विषयों पर कुछ अच्छ विज्ञापन बनाने की आवश्यकता है। विज्ञापन विज्ञापन न लगकर महत्वपूर्ण प्रभाव छोड़ें क्योंकि उन विज्ञापनों को घर में बैठा एक पांच छः सात साल का बच्चा भी देखता है ।

कल्चर एक्सचेंज प्रोग्राम के अंतगर्त कुल 2585 कार्यक्रम बाहर भेजे गए, परन्तु आयात केवल 479 कार्यक्रम ही किए गए । रेडियो कार्यक्रम का आदान प्रदान अधिक यथार्थ-परक आधार पर होना चाहिए तथा आकाशवाणी की विदेश सेवा का वास्तविक प्रभाव विदेशी श्रोता पर कैसा है, विदेशी श्रोताओं की संख्या क्या है ? इसका एक व्यापक सर्वे कराया जाना चाहिए ।

दूरदर्शन के प्रसारण में 14 परसेंट हिस्सा टी० वी० समाचारों का है । समाचारों का एक बड़ा हिस्सा राष्ट्रीय एवं अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय घटना क्रम तथा शेष खेल और मौसम आदि में घट जाता है । दूरदर्शन समाचार आम आदमी के समाचार बिल्कुल नहीं हैं । क्या आम आदमी समाचारों का विषय तब ही बन सकता है जब कभी दुर्घटना हो या अकाल पड़े ? आम आदमी देश की संस्कृति का रखवाला है, केरियर है, संस्कृति को आगे बढ़ाता है, कायम रखता है । आम आदमी देश की संस्कृति का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा है। केवल अकादमियों, संस्थाओं, नृत्यों, उत्सवों आदि द्वारा प्रदर्शित कला की संस्कृति नहीं होती । आम आदमी के रोजमर्रा के दैनिक जीवन, उसके सुख-दुख और उत्साह की घटनाएं समाचारों का अंग होनी चाहिए । यह समाचार दूरदराज गांव के किसी घर, संस्था, मेला, भीड़ आदि से निकाल कर आने चाहिए क्योंकि हमारा देश एक प्राचीन संस्कृति प्रधान देश है । हम अपनी सांस्कृतिक विरासत के कारण ही विश्व में अपनी पहचान बनाते हैं व अलग पहचाने जाते हैं । जिस देश में रंगरंग की संस्कृतियां है, विविधता में एकता है, उस देश के समाचार में आम आदमी के समाचार की कमी खलती है ।

टी० वी० समाचारों में बिजुअल को बढ़ाया जाना बहुत जरूरी है । जोधपुर जेल से बंदियों का छोड़ा जाना एक राष्ट्रीय महत्व की घटना थी, उस पर उस कोई बिजुअल नहीं बनाई गई । सती की समाजिक शर्म जैसी घटना पर टी० वी० का सोते रहना खलता है। ऐसा क्यों हुआ, यह मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं । टी० वी० की अपनी कोई न्यूज एजेंसी होनी चाहिए ।

कई बार तो हिन्दी के समाचार इंगलिस के अनुवाद भर होते है । इसका स्तर सुधारने की आवश्यकता है ।

टी० वी० विज्ञापनों में महिलाओं को जिस तरह प्रस्तुत किया जाता है, वह स्त्री को तस्तरी में रखकर प्रस्तुत करने जैसा ही है । महिला संबंधी सीरियल्स में "अधिकार" व "स्त्री" दो ही अच्छे सीरियल आए । इसमें काफी सुधार की आवश्यकता है । अभी छः सात दिन पहले दहेज पर अच्छा एक सीरियल "जहां दहेज नहीं है" देखा और कल ही एक घटना, जिसमें स्त्री को जलाया गया है, उस घटना पर एक बहुत अच्छी फिल्म देखी "जलता सवाल" । . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): When I saw that there were tears in my eyes.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: For the first time they have shown such a documentary on T V on such a buring question.

लेकिन अभी तक कोई ऐसा सीरियल नहीं आया, जो स्त्री का स्वत्व, वर्तमान में उसकी पहचान, अस्तित्व को प्रमाणित करते । अभी तक भी दूरदर्शन पर महिलाओं का प्रयोग केवल पपेट की ही तरह हो रहा है ।

साहित्य के नाम पर दूरदर्शन के पास केवल 25 मिनट का कार्यक्रम "पत्रिका" देखने को मिलता है, लेकिन दूरदर्शन के रंगीन होने के बाद भी "पत्रिका" कार्यक्रम ब्लेक एण्ड व्हाइट में ही है । दूरदर्शन की 1988 की रिपोर्ट में भी साहित्यिक घटनाओं का कोई वर्णन नहीं किया । कुछ साहित्यिक कार्यक्रमों में वृद्धि की जानी चाहिए । कला, संस्कृति, व साहित्य में रुचि जगाने वाले कार्यक्रमों पर भी महत्व देना है।

दूरदर्शन रेडियो के बढ़ते प्रभाव का बच्चों व ग्रामीण महिलाओं पर क्या असर होता है व स्कूल पढ़ने वाले बच्चों पर इस मीडिया का क्या प्रभाव पड़ता है ? आजकल बड़ों के सीरियल बच्चे देखते हैं, देर रात की एडल्ट फिल्मस देखने का, फेमिली प्लानिंग के एड का बच्चों के कोमल दिमाग पर क्या असर पड़ता है ? बच्चे कहीं टी० वी० एडिक्टस तो नहीं हो रहे हैं ? बच्चों को अपने स्कूली पाठ्यक्रम, सोशल लाईफ, अपने घरेलू कर्त्तव्यों से विमुख तो नहीं कर रहा ? इन सब मद्दों को ध्यान में रखकर मंत्रालय को एक व्यापक सर्वे अवश्य कराना चाहिए । कोई भी राष्ट्र बच्चों के चरित्र को दांव पर लगाकर विकास नहीं कर सकता । एन०एफ०डी०सी० द्वारा बनायी गयी फिल्म टी० वी० पर अवश्य दिखायी जानी चाहिए । देखा यह गया है कि एन०एफ०डी०सी० की सहायता से तैयार फीचर फिल्म का प्रयोग केवल टी०वी० द्वारा किया जा रहा है । इसको रोका जाना चाहिए । केवल टी०वी० के बढ़ते प्रचार को देखते हुए यह आवश्यक हो गया है कि केवल टी०वी० पर दिखायी जाने वाली विदेशी ब्लू फिल्म्स पर रोक लगायी जाय । इसके लिए एक व्यापक कानून बने । यह हमारे देश की संस्कृति पर हमला है । इसकी जगह सरकार को छोटे-छोटे वीडियो पालौर्स को बढ़ावा देना चाहिए ।

देश के बहुत-से सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं जहां सीमा पार के दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी कार्यक्रम सुलभ हैं, किंतु हमारे ए०आय०आर० कार्यक्रम उन तक नहीं पहुचते । कभी -कभी विदेशी प्रसारणों में हमारे देश के खिलाफ भी प्रचार होता है । टी०वी० मानिटरिंग सेल जो शायद अभी तक अपनी भूमिका अदा नहीं कर पाया है, उसे कड़ाई से ऐसे प्रोग्राम्स पर निगरानी रखने के आदेश दिए जाने चाहिए व मानिटरिंग सेल की रिपोर्ट को प्रस्तुत किया जाना चाहिए । यह सही है कि रेडियो और टेलीविजन नेटवर्क बढ़ रहा है । आकाशवाणी के कार्यक्रमों की रोचकता कम हो रही है ।

[उपसभाध्यक्ष श्री हेच० हनुमनतप्पा पीठासीन हुए]

[श्रीमती वाणी वर्मा]

इसलिए यह जरूरी है कि आकाशवाणी दूरदर्शन के कार्यक्रमों की प्रतिस्पर्धा का, स्वीकार करें और अपने कार्यक्रमों को रोचक बनाने का अभियान शुरू करें। टी०वी० और ए०आई०आर० के व्यापक प्रचार के लिए एक पत्रिका जैसी मैगजीन फिर से शुरू की जानी चाहिए जिसमें कि टी०वी० और ए०आई०आर० कार्यक्रमों की जानकारी हो।

प्रकाशन विभाग, राष्ट्र की बहुआयामी संस्कृति तथा क्षेत्रीय विशिष्ट नरपुंगवों, राष्ट्र निर्माताओं तथा क्रांतिकारियों की जीवनी प्रकाशित करता है। परन्तु उसके प्रचार के लिए इसके पास कोई महत्वपूर्ण साधन नहीं है। किताब दोस्तों की भेंट चढ़ जाती है। मेरे खयाल से 50 से भी ज्यादा पत्र-पत्रिकाएं यहां से प्रकाशित होती हैं, लेकिन उन्हें कोई नहीं पढ़ता। सुलभ सदस्यों के पास ही नहीं, और लोगों के पास कम्प्लीमेंटरी कापी जाती है, लाइब्रेरी में इसकी प्रतियां रखी जाती हैं, लेकिन क्या कोई उन्हें पढ़ता है? कोई पढ़ता अथवा खरीदता नहीं। यदि पढ़ा ही नहीं तो फिर ये छपती क्यों हैं? इस पर पब्लिकेशन डिविजन को विचार करना चाहिए। वह कथा नहीं इतनी रोचक बनायी जाती कि लोग उसे पढ़ें। अतः इस माध्यम के सही उपयोग केलिए विचार किया जाना चाहिए।

अतः में अपने क्षेत्र की कुछ मांगें मंत्री जी के सामने रखना चाहूंगी। मध्य प्रदेश में बिलासपुर जोकि मेरा क्षेत्र है वहां अभी तक आकाशवाणी का केन्द्र शुरू नहीं हो सका है। उसका आकाशवाणी टावर भी तैयार है, भवन तैयार है, मशीनरी भी आ चुकी है लेकिन उदघाटन की देर है। मध्यप्रदेश में बालाघाट में भी टी०वी० स्टेशन जल्दी शुरू किया जाय क्योंकि यह एक ऐसा जिला है जो मध्यप्रदेश व महाराष्ट्र, दो प्रांतों को जोड़ता है और यहां पर गोंदिया (महाराष्ट्र) से टी०वी० प्रोग्राम शुरू होते हैं जोकि नेशनल प्रोग्राम शुरू होने तक मराठी भाषा में आते हैं। बालाघाट व आसपास की भाषा मराठी नहीं है। इस जिले में कम-से-कम एक हजार किलोवाट का टी०वी० टावर बनाया जाय जिससे कि पूरा जिला कवर किया जा सके। रायपुर में भी एक ब्राडकास्ट सेंटर जल्दी ही खोला जाना चाहिए जिससे कि मध्यप्रदेश के लोग अपनी क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं में कार्यक्रम दे सकें। मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगी कि यह कब तक होगा।

देश की सांस्कृतिक एकता व अखंडता की दिशा में बढ़ते प्रभाव व महत्वपूर्ण कार्यों को देखते हुए हमें यही कहना होगा कि, "इक्कीसवीं सदी का सूर्योदय भारत में होगा।" धन्यवाद।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय भारत सरकार का एक अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण मंत्रालय है। गृह मंत्रालय जैसा मंत्रालय जनों के तनों पर अधिकार चलाता है, वित्त मंत्रालय जैसा मंत्रालय जनों के धनों पर अधिकार चलाता है लेकिन सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय जनों के मनों पर अधिकार चलाता है और इसके कारण सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय की सामाजिक प्रतिबद्धता अत्यावश्यक बन जाती है। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से अब इस मंत्रालय ने सामाजिक प्रतिबद्धता के स्थान पर राजनीतिक प्रतिबद्धता को इतना बढ़ाचढ़ाकर महत्व दिया है कि आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन की स्वायत्ता की मांग अब पहले से ज्यादा महत्वपूर्ण बनी है।

हम सभी जानते हैं कि पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू जी ने इसी स्वायत्ता की दिशा में जाने का मानस बार-बार व्यक्त किया था। 1964 में जब स्वर्गीय इन्दिरा जी सूचना एवं प्रसारण मंत्री थीं तब चन्दा समिति का गठन हुआ था, इन्होंने भी आकाशवाणी को स्वायत्त संस्था बनाने की सिफारिश की थी। 1978 में जनता शासन में गठित वर्गिस समिति ने भी इसी प्रकार की सिफारिश

की थी। 1979 में आए 'प्रसार भारती' विधेयक का भी यही उद्देश्य था। वैसे जनता सरकार ने बिना कानून में परिवर्तन लाए इस दिशा में कुछ स्वस्थ परम्पराओं का प्रारम्भ किया था खासकर चुनावी प्रसार में भी सभी राजनीतिक दलों को इन जन-माध्यमों का उपयोग करने का अवसर मिला। चुनाव आयोग 20 वर्ष तक इस दिशा में प्रयास करता रहा, यह काम केवल जनता शासन में ही हो सका। सत्ता दल के बाद विपक्ष दल के नेता को भी दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी पर अपने विचार व्यक्त करने का अवसर भी स्वतंत्र हिन्दुस्तान के इतिहास में पहले जनता शासन में ही मिला लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से फिर यह प्रक्रिया बंद हो गई। अब याद रहे जब गत 40 वर्षों से हम आकाशवाणी की स्वायत्तता की बात कर रहे थे तब लोगों के मन और मस्तिष्क पर छा जाने वाला दूरदर्शन नहीं के बराबर था। लेकिन गत कुछ वर्षों में दूरदर्शन के आने से मौलिक अंतर हुआ है इसके साथ-साथ ही सरकार की नीति बदली है और नीयत में ज्यादा गड़बड़ी आई है। एक ओर दूरदर्शन के दुरुपयोग की नीति बढ़ रही है और दूसरी ओर स्वायत्तता देने की मांग को बार-बार उठाया जा रहा है। जनतंत्र में सत्ता पक्ष और विपक्ष दोनों का सही ढंग से चित्र अगर जनता के सामने नहीं आया तो जनतंत्र कभी सफल नहीं हो सकता और इस सफलता के लिए अगर दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी जैसे सबसे अधिक शक्तिशाली महत्वपूर्ण साधन अगर सरकारी प्रचार के माध्यम बन जाएं तो स्वाभाविक रूप से देश में जनतंत्र कभी सफल नहीं होगा और इसलिए मैं इस चर्चा में सबसे पहले आग्रहपूर्वक मांग करता हूं कि आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन को पूर्ण रूप से स्वायत्ता देने पर ही सरकार को विचार करना चाहिए। मैं यह जानता हूं कि जिस दिन आकाशवाणी और दूरदर्शन स्वायत्त हो जाएंगे, सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय का कार्य बहुत ही छोटा हो जाएगा लेकिन फिर भी दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी की स्वायतता इतनी सर्वोपरि है, जनतंत्र के हित में है कि इसमें राजनीतिक विचार न करते हुए आने वाले इतिहास को देखते हुए इसे स्वायत्तता प्रदान करना आवश्यक है। दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी जनमाध्यमों के तीन उद्देश्य माने जाते हैं—सूचना, शिक्षा और मनोरंजन। सूचना इसका सबसे महत्वपूर्ण उद्देश्य है। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से इन माध्यमों द्वारा दी गई सूचना या तो पक्षपातपूर्ण होती है या अर्द्ध-सत्य से भरी होती है। दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी का सरकारीकरण होने के कारण इनकी विश्वसनीयता में भी गिरावट आई है। अगर स्वायत्त मिले तो इनकी विश्वसनीयता बढ़ सकती है। अब सरकारीकरण के कारण यहां तो समाचार या न्यूज में कभी संसद की प्रतिध्वनि नहीं होती थी। अगर कोई घंटनाओं की प्रतिक्रिया, समाचार, न्यूज में दिखाई देती थी तो वह प्रधान मंत्री या मंत्रियों के बयान होते थे। अब तो संसद समाचार और "टुडे इन पार्लियामेंट" में सरकारीकरण स्पष्ट रूप से झलक रहा है। वैसे तो प्रश्नकाल में सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण चर्चा होती है, लेकिन वह संसद समाचारों का हिस्सा होती ही नहीं है। आज सुबह हमारे एक सहयोगी गुरुदास दासगुप्त यह शिकायत कर रहे थे कि कल जब उन्होंने चाय के संबंध में भ्रष्टाचार का मामला सदन में उठाया तो रात को "टुडे इनपार्लियामेंट" में जो भी विशेष उल्लेख इस सदन में हुए, सब का उसमें उल्लेख था। अगर किसी एक बात का उल्लेख नहीं हुआ तो वह गुरुदास दासगुप्त के चाय के संबंध में भ्रष्टाचार के मामले का था।

राज्य सभा में अभी जब सांप्रदायिकता की चर्चा हुई तो इसमें मंत्री महोदय श्री चिदंबरम ने जो उत्तर दिया उसे विस्तार से कहा गया। मुझे इसमें आपत्ति नहीं है, उनकी बात जरूर समाज के सामने जानी चाहिए, लेकिन इतनी महत्वपूर्ण बहस में किस किसने भाग लिया—क्या कहा यह शायद समय के अभाव में संभव न हो लेकिन—सत्ता पक्ष और विपक्ष में किस किस ने भाग लिया, उनके नाम तक, विचार तो छोड़ दीजिए, की झलक इसमें

[श्री प्रमोद महाजन]

नहीं मिली । यह संसद समाचार और "दु डे इन पार्लियामेंट" के सरकारीकरण की स्थिति है, तो समाचार और न्यूज का क्या हाल होगा, यह लोग जान सकते हैं।

यह वर्ष हिन्दुस्तान में बड़े महानुभावों की जन्म शताब्दी का वर्ष है । पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू की शताब्दी हम मना रहे हैं । उसी प्रकार राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक के संस्थापक डा० केशवराम बलिराम हेडगेवार का भी यह जन्म शताब्दी वर्ष है। अब मैं यह समझ सकता हूं कि राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के विचारों से किसी को आपत्ति हो सकती है, लेकिन डा० केशवराम बलिराम हेडगेवार केवल राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ के संस्थापक ही नहीं थे, वे इस देश के स्वतंत्रता सेनानियों में से एक थे और यह मैं नहीं कह रहा हूं, अगर मैं कहूं तो आप कहेंगे कि राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ का सदस्य हूं इसलिए कह रहा हूं, भारत सरकार के शिक्षा मंत्रालय की योजनान्तर्गत इतिहास अध्ययन संस्थान, कलकत्ता द्वारा 1973 में प्रकाशित महापुरुषों की जो संक्षिप्त जीवनी है, उसके खंड 2 में विस्तृत रूप से डा० केशवराम बलिराम हेडगेवार का उल्लेख है । मैंने मंत्री जी से और इस मंत्रालय के सचिव से पिछले 6 महीनों से करबद्ध प्रार्थना की कि इस देश में उनकी जन्मशताब्दी मनाई जा रही है तो आप क्यों नहीं दूरदर्शन पर इस पर कार्यक्रम करते ? मैंने तो यहां तक कहा कि अगर उनकी प्रशंसा में नहीं कहना चाहते हो तो आलोचना में कहिए, मुझे इस पर भी कोई आपत्ति नहीं है । डा० केशवराम बलिराम हेडगेवार और राष्ट्रीय स्वयंसेवक संघ को लेकर विभिन्न राजनीतिक दलों के नेताओं को बुलाकर आप उस पर बहस कर सकते हैं, आलोचना कर सकते हैं, टीका-टिप्पणी कर सकते हैं। लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से आज तक उसका उत्तर नहीं मिला । ऐसे अगणित उदाहरण मैं गिना सकता हूं लेकिन मेरी पारी का समय अधिक नहीं है इसलिए उदाहरणों में नहीं जाता, मगर मुझे लगता है कि दूरदर्शन गूंगी हुई है, न्यूज लाइन साइड लाइन कर दी है, सब की परछाइयां लुप्त हो गई हैं, फोकस दिन प्रति दिन प्रकाशहीन हो रहा है । करेंट एफेयर्स का करेंट कब चला जाएगा, पता नहीं है । अब तो दूरदर्शन पर केवल दो कार्यक्रम दिखाई देते हैं, देखिये, एक तो देश का तारणहार, नहीं तो चित्रहार, बाकी सारे विज्ञापनों की भरमार यह दूरदर्शन की आज की दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण अवस्था बनी है ।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह अहलुवालिया : (बिहार) : पानबहार भी ।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : विज्ञापनों की भरमार और सरदार जी का पानबहार ।

सूचना और देश का हाल तो हमने देखा । अब इस माध्यम का दूसरा उद्देश्य है शिक्षा इस उद्देश्य में यह माध्यम असफलता की चरम सीमा तक पहुंच गया है । मानों शिक्षा इसमें है ही नहीं । जोशी समिति ने महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिशें की थी । दूरदर्शन को एक भारतीय व्यक्तित्व देने का प्रयास था । लेकिन लगता है कि इस समिति की सिफारिशों को सरकार ने कूड़ेदान में फेंक दिया ।

दूरदर्शन में व्यवसायीकरण की भरमार के खिलाफ काफी चर्चा हुई है। सभी जानते हैं कि हमारा देश एक गरीब देश है । इच्छाओं आकांक्षाओं और साधनों में हमारे देश में बड़ी खाई है । अगर दूरदर्शन पर व्यवसायिक विज्ञापनों के द्वारा हम जनता की इच्छाओं और आकांक्षाओं की चरमसीमा तक ले जाये तो उनकी पूर्ति करने के लिए आवश्यक इस प्रकार के साधनों को जुटाने में अगर आर्थिक दृष्टि से हम असफल हो जायें तो बीच में खड़ी होने वाली खाई इस देश के युवाओं को चोरी करना सिखाएगी या मारना सिखाएगी । इसलिए जिस प्रकार का व्यवसायीकरण इस सारे दूरदर्शन का हुआ है वह ठीक नहीं है । मैं जानता हूं, पैसा एक महत्वपूर्ण बात है । लेकिन केवल पैसे के लिए दूरदर्शन को चलायें, यह ठीक नहीं है । इसका राष्ट्रीय उद्देश्य भी है ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please conclude, Mr. Mahajan.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : मैं दो मिनट से ज्यादा नहीं लूंगा । एक मुद्दा मुझे यह कहना है कि दूरदर्शन का तीसरा उद्देश्य मनोरंजन है । मनोरंजन की दृष्टि से यह छोटा परदा बड़े परदे की भ्रष्ट नकल बना है । सुबह फिल्मी गीत, दोपहर को फिल्मी गीत, शाम में चित्र गीत, रात में फिल्म और देर रात में फिर फिल्म । यह मिले सुर तुम्हारा हमारा, आज सबसे बढ़िया गीत है और उसमें भी शायद सबसे बढ़िया इसलिए है कि इसमें फिल्मी हस्तियों की भरमार है । अब क्या हमने दूरदर्शन को मुंबई के फिल्म उद्योग का छोटा दर्शन बनाने का सोचा है ? क्या रामायण और महाभारत भी फिल्मी ढंग से आएंगे ? धारावाहिकों के बारे में क्या कहूं, समय के अभाव में कह नहीं सकता हूं । किले का रहस्य और मण्डी हाउस का रहस्य, दोनों रहस्यों को समझना अपने आप में बहुत मुश्किल रहस्य है । इसकी विस्तृत चर्चा में आज मैं नहीं जा सकता हूं । दिल्ली से प्रादेशिक केन्द्रों पर जो आक्रमण होता है, यह समझ से बाहर है। मैंने मुंबई में बैठकर देखा है, कभी आप छः साढ़े छः बजे देखिए तो कहते है कि अब आप दिल्ली से देखिये । जो भी प्रादेशिक विभिन्न प्रकार के कार्यक्रमों का नियोजन होता है वह दिखाई नहीं देता है। हम मांग करते रहे हैं कि दूसरा चेनल राज्यों को दे दिया जाये । जब दूसरा चेनल राज्यों को देने की बात आती है तो क्या कहा जाता है कि इस पर तीन हजार करोड़ रुपये लगेंगे । दूसरा चेनल जहां उपलब्ध है, जिन शहरों में यह है उनसे यह राज्य सरकारों को क्यों नहीं दिया जा सकता है? आप अपनी जिम्मेदारी से अपना पहला चेनल चला सकते हैं तो क्या राज्य सरकारें इतनी निकम्मी हैं कि दूसरा चेनल नहीं चला सकती हैं? इसलिए इस प्रकार के अधिकार की बात दूरदर्शन पर आ जाती है । जैसे मैंने कहा, बहुत कहना है, लेकिन पार्टी के सदस्य कम हैं, इसलिए समय भी कम है । इसलिए मैं अपनी अंतिम बात कह कर समाप्त करूंगा । दूरदर्शन और आकाशवाणी पर सरकार का नियंत्रण होने के कारण समाचार-पत्रों की स्वतंत्रता सबसे महत्वपूर्ण हो गई है । मैं किसी एक समूह समाचार-पत्र को गीता या वेद नहीं मानता । मैं यह भी नहीं मानता कि वे गलती कर नहीं सकते हैं । मैं यह भी नहीं मानता कि वे विश्वसनीयता खो नहीं सकते हैं । समाचार-पत्र अपनी विश्वसनीयता खो देंगे तो वे समाप्त हो जाएंगे । उस पर मुझे कोई आपत्ति नहीं है । लेकिन फिर भी समाचार-पत्रों का जनतंत्र में अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण स्थान है । मैं केवल पंडित जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी की जन्म शताब्दी के अवसर पर उनका ही एक वाक्य उद्धृत कर अपना भाषण समाप्त कर रहा हूं । जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी ने कहा था—

"I would rather have a completely free, press with all the dangers involved in the wrong use of freedom than a suppressed and regulated press."

इसके महत्व को देखते हुए इस पर टिप्पणी की आवश्यकता नहीं है । स्टेटसमैन की हालत, इंडियन एक्सप्रेस की हालत, मानहानि विधेयक, समाचार-पत्रों का कागज महंगा करना और बछावत कमेटी को बार-बार अमृत पिलाते जाना इन सारी चीजों से हमें यही दिखाई देता है कि समाचार-पत्रों का इस प्रकार से गला घोंटने का प्रयास कर रहे इसलिए इसकी कार्य-पद्धति पर मेरी अंतिम प्रार्थना यही है कि सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्रालय को अपने पूर्ण कार्य के संबंध में एक अत्यन्त मौलिक पुनर्मूल्यांकन की आवश्यकता है । तीन कृष्ण वहां बैठे हैं, वे तीनों मिलकर इस दिशा में विचार करें, यही मेरी प्रार्थना है । बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA

KUMAR): I may be permitted to intervene at this stage to give an overall perspective and framework of the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. A comprehensive reply to the points raised by the hon. Members as well as an exposition of the finer points of higher policy relating to the working of the Ministry will be given when my senior colleague replies in the House at the end of this debate.

Sir, this Ministry is working on time-tested and well laid-down principles and objectives, namely, inform, educate and create awareness among the people of our country, to promote our country's culture and heritage, achieve people's participation in the socio-economic development programmes of our country, reinforce our country's unity and integrity. Sir, this Ministry, in the process of its evolution in independent India, has held fast to these axiomatic principles.

As has been pointed out by some of the hon. Members one of the most significant developments in the field of media, information and communicaiton in our country, as elsewhere in the world, is the development, the fast, explosive development of the electronic media. It is a tribute to the vision of Smt. Indira Gandhi that she had initiated this revolutionary process of developing India's electronic media, notably Doordarshan. She gave to us the colour television in 1982. My senior colleague had the privilege of overseeing the first accelerated phase of expansion of television in the 80s. In 1984, as the hon. Members would recall, one TV transmitter on an average was being inaugurated in the country every day. Now Shri H. K. L. Bhagatji has the privilege of T.V. expansion in our country completing or translating into action the dream of Smt. Indira Gandhi under the leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Starting with 172-transmitters at the beginning of the Seventh Plan, we have already completed an infrastructure of 335 transmitters, and this figure is going to increase to 423 transmitters at the end of the Seventh Plan. I am sure, development of 100 more transmitters for which my Minister took the initiative, is going to materialise, and the number of transmitters is going to further increase to 523, reaching 83 per cent or more of the population of our country. Every district 5.00 P.M headquarter is going to have a TV transmitter. All the Parliamentary constituencies, except five, are going to be covered partially or wholly by the television infrastructure by the end of the Plan. The number of production centres is going to increase from 18 to 48. The overall perspective of the development of TV is a three-tier structure—naitonal transmission, which will focus on national issues; regional transmission in regional languages which will be available to the population of each State, and, as the third tier, which we hope to implement daring the Eighth Plan, local transmissions will be introduced in a district or sub-regional basis, which will cater to the aspirations of the people of the local areas of our country, especially the tribal and backward areas. In addition to this, Rs. 96 crores are being spent on the border TV transmission programme. This again is an accelerated intensive scheme and the percentage of coverage in the border areas will be 87 per cent at the end of the Seventh Plan, 3 per cent more than the national average.

All India Radio, which started with six radio stations at the beginning of Independence was developed to 96 stations at the beginning of the Seventh Plan. We are going to have 205 transmitting centres by the end of the plan and radio is going to reach 97.5 per cent of the population of the country. As has been mentioned by Shri Verma and others, at the end of the Seventh Plan Akashwani is going to become the largest single broadcasting organisation in the whole world. Only last year our Minister had inaugurated a national channel at Nagpur which covers 56 per cent of the populaiton of the country. Our External Services alone broadcast 73 houres of broadcasting in 16 foreign lang-

uages and seven Indian languages. The External Services Division is being progressively strengthened. The volume and each of our operation can be assessed from the fact that All India Radio news bulletins alone in a single day are 273 in number, for about 37 hours, including home, external and regional services.

In the Seventh Plan, the Rajiv Gandhi administration spent Rs. 1,500 crores on the electronic media, on Doordarshan and AIR and the projected schemes are being implemented virtually fully as per the time schedule with very few slippages. This figure of Rs. 1,500 crores is equivalent to the cumulative investment on the electronic media before the beginning of the Seventh Plan since independence.

The Prime Minister and the Government are keen that this vast infrastructure that we have created for Doordarshan and All India Radio is fully utilised. It is as per the wish and guidance of the Prime Minister that his Ministry has progressively increased the telecast time in the last one year from eleven hours on an average to start with to about 14 to 15 hours now daily. It is our Minister's wish that the telecast time shall be increased, if possible, to about 19 hours per day. This will be done progressively thereby giving sufficient time for strengthening all the components of the programmes, including sports education and all activities relating to human resource development and social and economic development of the country. Already All India Radio services extend to 23 hours. By orchestraing our existing infrastructure and by providing additional critical infrastructure it is our hope in the not too distant future Akashwani will become a 24 hour broadcasting service in our country. Simultaneously, Sir, we are giving attention for improvement of programmes, for improvement of content and quality.

Another Member raised the question of production of programmes in-house as against contracting programmes to outside parties. Perhaps, he would like to know, Sir, already in Doordarshan 58 per cent of our programmes are produced within Doordarshan itself as Doordarshan production and about 30 per cent are from other Indian sources and 6 per cent from foreign sources and 6 per cent miscellaneous... (*Interruptions*)... A detailed reply will be given tomorrow. I am giving the overall break up. (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): He is not replying. You wait for the reply.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, with reference to the break-up of programmes another Member mentioned that the presence of educational programmes is not sufficient. Perhaps he would like to know that if the total telecast time of Doordarshan programmes is broken up 28 per cent is informational programmes, 17 per cent is developmental programmes, 30 per cent is artistic and cultural programmes and only 19 per cent is entertainment programmes, the presence of commercial advertisement in Doordarshan as against public perception as against the perception tion of some of the Members here, is actually less than 3 per cent of the telecast time as of now.

Sir, many of the comments and observations in this House today related to the news and current affairs programmes of Doordarshan and All India Radio. I would like to say as my senior Minister has said repeatedly in this House as well as in the Rajya Sabha that Doordarshan follows the norms which have been laid down. It is the legitimate responsibility of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, it is the legitimate responsibility of Doordarshan as well as AIR, to project the achievements of this Government

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and the projection of the achievements of this Government *inter alia* will definitely include, Sir, effective rebuttal of any unjust criticism or allegations against this Government. I would only say that it is not at all necessary for the electronic media to be a mirror reflection as to what is happening in parts of the print media in this country. A section of the print media is engaged in pulling down the institutions of this great democracy, creating disaffection against the pillars of our democracy, denigrating high personalities... (*Interruptions*)... Sir, parts of the print media are including in self-flagellation of our national pride. I said in the beginning itself that part of the print media is engaged in creating disaffection in the minds of the people, against the institution of democracy in this country, against the political process, against the politicians, against the judiciary, against the legislators. Sir, the media controlled by the Government is legitimately interested in promoting pride among the people for being Indian. We want to project the achievements of this Government in the last 40 years of independence, the tremendous strides this national has made in safeguarding the democratic process, the advancement made in agriculture, in science and in the public sector. Sir, in the last four years we are interested in projecting the able way in which our Government managed the country's worst drought in this country, the great advances, the great breakthroughs made in the foreign policy by the Prime Minister, including his visit to China. We are interested in, and we shall definitely not desist from rebutting any unjust criticism against the Government. We shall not bend ourselves backward in being victimised by the type of game the Opposition is playing. Sir, I come from a State ruled by the Opposiiton, the Marxist Government in Kerala. Every single day as a public worker, I live with the experience that the entire information machinery of the Marxist Government of Kerala is being misutilized. No norm is being followed. Every printed word is being misutilised to denigrate Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Central Government... (*Interruptions*)... Every single opportunity is being used by the Marxist Government without following any norm whatsoever to criticise the Central Government. (*Interruptions*)... Sir, in Andhra Pradesh... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE- CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Order Please.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, in Rama Rao's Government in Andhra Pradesh, whereas the annual expenditure on information of the State Government was about Rs. 1 crore about four or five years, now Rama Rao has increased the expenditure to Rs. 40 crores a year only to project the person of Rama Rao and also utilise the media under his control to denigrate the Central Government... (*Interruptions*)... Therefore, these people have no right whatsoever to criticise the policy of the Government... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh) Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, I am not yielding.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Minister please sit down.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the working of the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry and all of a sudden, I find that the information department of Andhra State Government is under attack and that too... (*Interruptions*)... No, no. My point of order is: Can the forum of Parliament be used by an hon. Minister to make an attack on a State Government? Congress MLAs from Andhra Pradesh have every right to raise all these issues in the Andhra Legislative Assembly. I do not know how far they are correct: Today when I come here, I come here

prepared to say yes or no, in favour or against, anything that is said about the Information and Broadcasting Ministry. But I do not know anything about the information department of the Andhra State Government and it is highly improper... (*Interruptions*).. I have not completed. My point of order is that this forum of Parliament should not be allowed to be used by an hon. Minister of the Central Government to make an attack on a State Government and that too in respect of a department of that Ministry. It is highly improper... (*Interruptions*)... I am not asking for expunction. I am not in favour of expunction. My point is that the Presiding Officer of this House must give a very clear ruling on this and if you hink it is necessary, let the hon. Chairman of this House consider this point of order. But I am very clear on this that this forum cannot be utilised by any Minister of the Central Government to make an attack on a State Government. I may disagree with that Government but here we are discussing the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry and not the information department of the Andhra State Government... (*Interruptions*).. I would plead with you because this becomes a precedent... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Advani, if this is not to be done, then why are you raising matters... (*Interruptions*)..

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: You go through all the records of the past. In the past, all Ministers, all Governments had been very scrupulous, very careful... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Sir, I would like to... (*Interruptions*). I am speaking on his point of order when a person of Shri Advani's stature raises a point, that should be taken up and considered. I am really amused at the point of order raised by Shri Advani. Why is Mr. Krishna Kumar referring to what the State Government Information Departments are doing to denigrate the Central Government? The relevance is not what the State Governments are doing. The relavance is the propaganda that they are carrying on against the Central Government. That is the relevance. Advaniji, I did not expect you to act like this. (*Interruption*). Let me finish. Then, if he permits, you can speak: I have no objection. What he is saying is totally relevant because on the one hand, the State media is being unjustifiably used against the Central Government while on the other, the Central Government is being attacked as being unfair to them. His reply is quite relevant and therefore, no question of any point of order arises.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): All of you, please sit down. You cannot convert this into a discussion. Please sit down. While I agree that this House should not be utilised for criticising a State Government on a State subject, I would like to say this. The Minister was answering. The Opposition Members did not allow him even to complete the sentence while he was speaking. (*Interruptions*). You did not allow him to complete. Even I could not hear what he was saying When you people were shouting, I could not listen to what he was saying at all. That was the situation. Actually, he started only about the policy. If there are any criticisms, I will certainly look into the records. (*Interruptions*). I request you that you should allow the Chair also to listen to him if you want the Chair to act. Disturbing the whole proceedings, you cannot expect the Chair to act. If you want the Chair to act you should be patient and allow the Chair to listen to what is happening.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: When we discuss the working of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, we discuss the entire range of issues relating to the information policy of the Government, how the information system, whether at the Centre or in the States, works in consonance with national principle and values. (*Interruptions*). To the

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extent to which the State Governments' policies impinge on the working of the Central Government... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): We have also got a right to criticise the State Governments. It is not their prerogative... (*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE- CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please sit down.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: To the extent to which the policies and programmes of any particular State Government detract from the overall working of the Information Ministry. I am quite within my right to raise the issue. I am entirely within my right to raise the issue of the working of the State.... (*Interruptions*). For instance, if the IRDP, NREP Programmes of the Central Government are not given adequate importance by the Andhra Pradesh Government and supposing..... (*Interruptions*)... they propagate that they are the policies and programmes of that Government, then it becomes quite relevant for me to include it as a part of my remarks. Therefore, I am saying that I am entirely within my right. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Don't talk. You are unfit to be a Minister. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I have every right to answer. I have every right to answer..(*Interruptions*)..If there is any criticism by any State media against the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*)... I have every right to answer...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): You cannot question his right... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: He has no right to say that...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: That is my legitimate right...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: If he indulges in this, he has no right to be a Minister...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: That is my legitimate right...(*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Mr. Krishna Kumar, just wait...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: He is a Minister and he cannot say all these things...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: If a State media, for instance...(*Interruptions*)... I will give you an example. If the State media, for instance, are distorting the developmental programmes of the Central Government and making it appear to be Rama Rao's programmes, then it is my legitimate right to criticise ...(*Interruptions*)...I have right to point out that...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Order, order, please...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: He is a Minister and he is indulging in such a thing...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: When they indulge in suih a thing, I have also every right to criticise...(*Interruptions*) ...Sir, I have a feeling...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I have a feeling...(*Interruptions*)....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): First you listen to the bell or to the Chair and then you talk...(*Interruptions*)...

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): The Minister cannot understand the basic thing...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): All of you please sit down...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Krishna Kumar, you address the Chair first. First of all, you are not looking towards me at all.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: All right, Sir...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please address the Chair...(*Interruptions*)... I have already told him...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Krishna Kumar, please try to avoid any criticism of the States.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: I am saying that if any State media (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA (Rajasthan): Don't insult the Chair...(*Interruptions*)... Don't insult the Chair...(*Interruptions*)...He is not obeying the Chair...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I fail to understand how he cannot answer any criticism by the State Governments against the Central Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Just a minute. Honourable Members, you are all elders ...(*Interruptions*)...Order, please...(*Interruptions*)... Mr. Reddy, at this stage, if you get enraged like this, what is this?...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: You asked him to address the Chair. But he is not obeying the Chair...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I have already observed about it. Why do you repeat it? Don't repeat it...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: He is not obeying your ruling. He is flouting your ruling...(*Interruptions*)...

डा० सत्यकाश मालवीय : श्री पांडे व्यवधान डालने के लिए ...(व्यवधान)...किसी का व्यवधान डालने की यह रीति नहीं होनी चाहिए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I am sorry, Mr. Pande. Don't disturb the House like this...(*Interruptions*)... I have already given my opinion. I have asked the Minister also not to encroach upon that. He will continue his speech. But you should also have patience. Those who throw stones should also be prepared to receive stones. But let it be in a decent way, without crossing the rules.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: With due respect to the Chair,...(*Interruptions*)...With due respect to the Chair. (*Interruptions*)... I would like to ask one thing...(*Interruptions*)... Is it your point that if the State Government media unit distorts the Central Government programme, unjustly castigates the Central Government and misrepresents the Central Government Programmes, it does not become relevant for me to answer that? Is that your point? Sir, I am moving on to my next point...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I am moving on to my next point ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: You cannot misuse your right of speech here ...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Will all of you sit down, please? ...(*Interruptions*)...

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह (बिहार) : सरकार की ओर से उन्हें ट्रेनिंग दी जाए।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please sit down, Mr. Ram Awadesh Singh. After all, he is not naming any State. He is just raising an issue. He is only probing the issue. He is leaving it at that. Mr. Reddy, already, the Minister was speaking...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Don't support him...(*Interruptions*)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I am not supporting. Don't talk like that...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: The Chair is ruling and the Minister is not obeying the Chair...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, it is regrettable that the Minister did not respond to the observation by the Chair... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: He is not respecting the Chair... *(Interruptions)*...

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: He is giving full respect to the Chair... *(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please let the Minister continue..... *(Interruptions)* Everybody talks of the Rules and everybody violates.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, in the last few years, because of the exponential development of the electronic media there has been a sort of feeling that the non-electronic media has not been very relevant. Unfortunately, our departments of field publicity, Song and Drama and other Divisions, have not developed to their fullest potential. On the basis of a review last year, Sir, my hon. Minister has taken the initiative to streamline the policy and declare that the field publicity divisions, the Song and Drama and other non-electronic units of this Ministry will be developed to their fullest potential so that the genious of these types of media can be further used for information dissemination in the country.

Sir, the field publicity already has 257 field units, 800 staff artists and more than 575 registered troupes and 45 departmental troupes in the Song and Drama Division. The hon. Member who raised this point is aware that already certain decisions have been taken. A committee report is under examination only because it involves a certain amount of financial investment. There has been some delay. *(Interruptions)*.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : इन्टरवीन का मतलब है 5 मिनट 10 मिनट, यह घंटे भर से बोल रहे हैं । जवाब दे रहे हैं क्या ?.. (व्यवधान)..

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): This is not the reply. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, the Kelkar Committee report on newsprint issues is under examination of this Ministry and progressively the suggestions are being implemented. A Press and Books Registration Amendment Bill has already been introduced in Parliament and we have made it clear already that there will be widespread discussion on it and all points of view taken into account before the Bill is pursued in the coming sessions.

Sir, only last year the DAVP rates were revised by 30 per cent. The Ministry had emphatically and repeatedly assured that small and medium and language newspapers of our country will be given the maximum protection and encouragement. A committee has been appointed under Mr. Suman Dubey, a multidisciplinary committee. Some benefits have already been given. Further facts are being looked into by this committee.

Though not many Members mentioned it, this Ministry also is in charge of the film media in our country, though it is largely in the private sector and the subject of films is a State subject. This Ministry is aware of the difficulties being faced by the film industry including the chronic problem of video piracy and the problem of retionalisation of enfertainment tax which again is a State subject. It is for the States to give relief to the industry and rationalise the entertainment tax structure. States like Maharashtra have done so. This Ministry has been repeatedly pursuing with the States to rationalise the entertainment tax structure so that the cinema and theatre can survive in our counry.

Sir, the public sector organisations, the National Film Development Corporation, the Films Division, Children Films Society of India and other organizations have been engaged in realising the objective of promoting good cinema in our country. I need not elaborate. Ou of 800 odd films produced in the country every year, some are very good, of world standard; many are mediocre. But it has been our continuous effort to do whatever is possible under the auspices of the Central Government to promote good cinema in our country.

The Naional Film Development Corporation has been giving loans for rural theatres. It has been giving loans for production of films. We have the Directorate of Festivals which holds International Film Festivals every alternate year.

We participate in cultural exchange programmes with more than 54 countries. We are doing our very best to promote good cinema not only in the national language but also in all the regional languages of this country.

Sir, the media have also to play an inter-disciplinary role. Our Ministry has decided that all the different wings of teh media should mutually reinforce each other. For instance, the very best software which is produced in the films Division, what is already available and what can be produced, can be used by Doordarshan and *vice-versa*. An inter-disciplinary team is working to ensure that the genius of each of these media wing is developed to its fullest potential and the work is orchestrated so that the total output is best in terms of quantity and quality.

Sir, I do not want to take more of your time. The media under the control of Government is duty-bound to protect national values, the axiomatic principles on which our body politic is founded is surviving, the principle of parliamentary democrary, secularism, unity and integrity of the country, planned economic development, non-alignment in international affairs and India's leadership in the struggle for a non-violent, nuclear weapon free and peaceful world. Simultaneously, within India, while the political arguments will go on, tremendous work is being done by the All India Radio, television and field units in the field of literacy and education, in the development of human resources of our country. In fact, if 90 per cent of the people of our country are today aware of family planning programme, the major work in this creation of awareness has been done by our All India Radio which reaches almost the entire population in the rural areas of our country. We are expanding and we are reinforcing the entire range of human resources developmental programmes. We are giving maximum importance to fields like family welfare, maternal and child health literacy and the various missions which have been launched by our hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, we want to promote pride in being Indian. We want the media to be at the core of our national aspirations in the eradication of poverty and in the large-scale initiatives in which we are legitimately interested. We shall not flinch in our duty of projecting the grand initiatives of this Government for eradicating poverty in the country, for eradicating unemployment from this country and for building up of a new India. We shall use these media unflinchingly—justly and properly, but unflinchingly and bravely—as a powerful instrument of nation building. Thank you, Sir.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE AND THEIR BUSINESS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 4th May, 1989, allotted time